Man serving 45-year prison term wants new lawyer. PAGE 3
PATA Travel Mart includes gold award for MVA. PAGE 9

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 191

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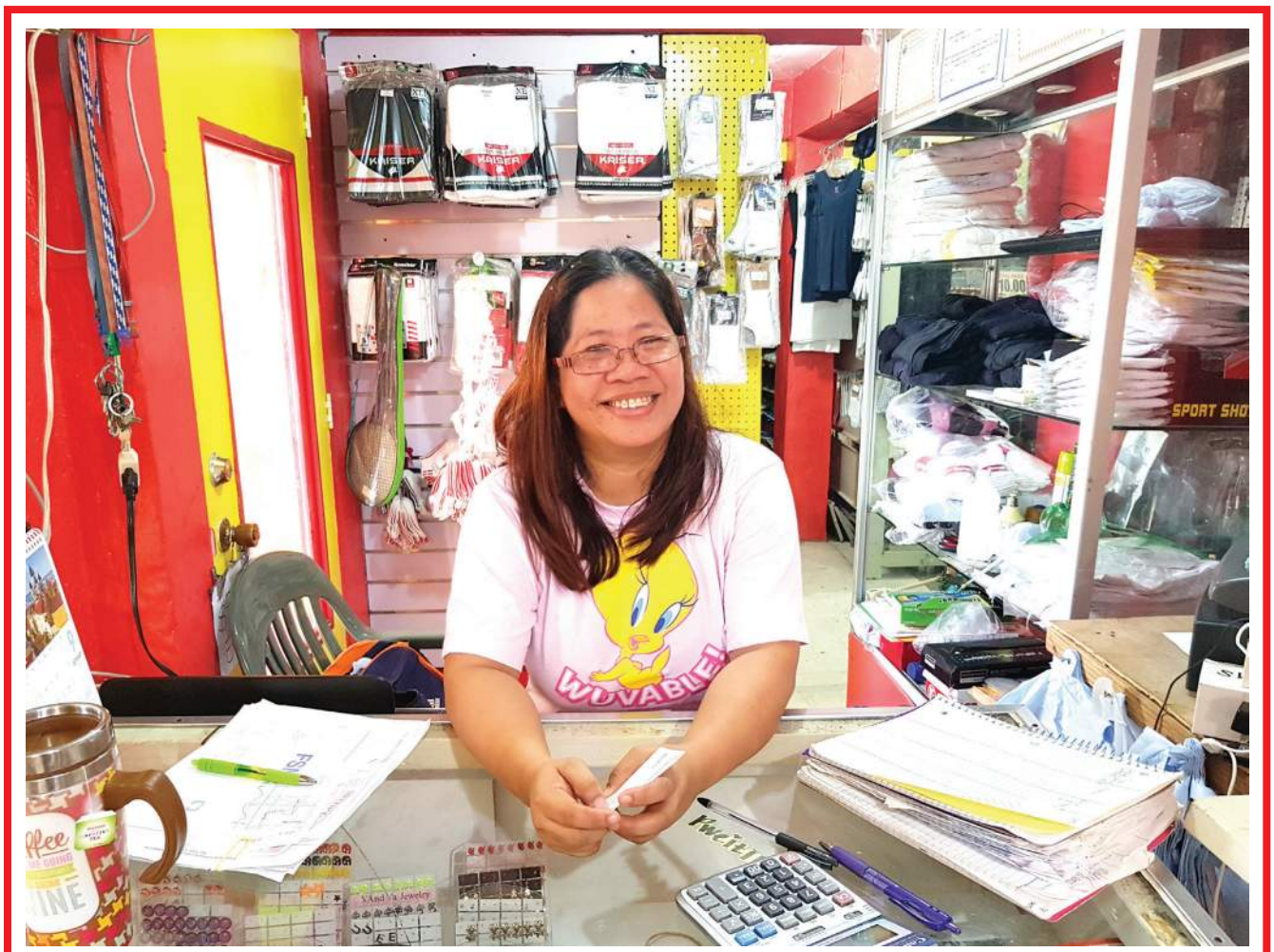
75¢

Lawmakers' salary to drop to $8K a year if...

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An advisory commission that would review the compensation of all elected officials must first agree on a salary that's based on an existing consumer price index. Otherwise the annual wages of the incoming members of the 21st Legislature would revert back to $8,000 per annum.

See SALARY on Page 4



Marie Lozada, who works as a salesperson in Pohnpei, said it is work as usual for Filipino workers in the Federated States of Micronesia, despite a Philippine ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to FSM. BEA CABRERA

Business as usual despite PH ban

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—Despite a recent ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to the Federated States of Micronesia, many of the Filipino workers who are already there are unperturbed by this development and even swore that they haven't heard of any abuses done to their countrymen on the islands.

Marie Lozada, who works as a salesperson in Kolonia, Pohnpei, said that she has heard the news about the ban but is not affected by it.

"It is work as usual here. Nobody is being sent home and no one is voluntarily going home because of the ban," she said.

The Philippine government, which relies heavily on the remittances sent by its overseas workers, con-

See BAN on Page 4

Unclaimed bodies at CHC morgue

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is set to bury one of two unclaimed bodies in its morgue.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that CHCC currently has three bodies in its morgue, which can only accommodate six bodies.

While information relating to one was not disclosed, it was learned yesterday that the bodies of Fred Tankersley and Ozung Van Tran remain un-

See MORGUE on Page 4

Strides seen in ridding NMI of rhino beetles

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Efforts to rid the CNMI of invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles is being tentatively described as a success, with little to almost no beetles uncovered every two months since a whole bunch was discovered on Rota in October 2017.

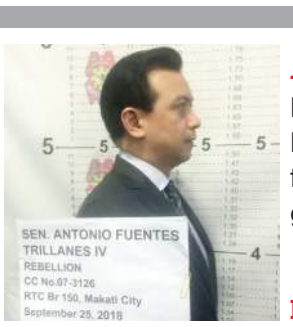
According to Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, efforts to eradicate coconut rhino

See STRIDES on Page 4

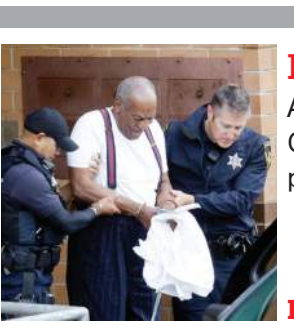
File photo of coconut rhinoceros beetle. UOG

INSIDE

NATION
Rivers swollen by Florence's relentless rains are still flooding homes and businesses.
PAGE 16



ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's fiercest critic in Congress is arrested.
PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE
An 81-year-old Bill Cosby is led away to prison in handcuffs.
PAGE 20

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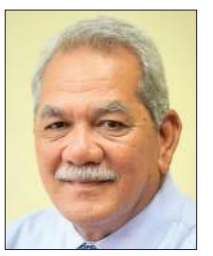
Local

AGs back VAWA reauthorization

In a joint effort organized by the attorneys general of the 56 states and territories, the National Association of Attorneys General recently urged Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, of which funding is set to expire this year.


Manibusan

"As chief legal officers of our respective states, reducing the rate and devasting effects of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking and supporting survivors as they rebuild their lives has been a constant and consistent priority," the attorneys general stated in their letter to Congress. "If Congress allows VAWA to lapse, it will mean that millions of survivors will have nowhere to turn, violent crimes against women will increase, and perpetrators of these crimes will go unpunished."

Originally passed in 1994, VAWA was enacted to address the severity of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking affecting the nation.

Between 1995 and 2016, billions of dollars in grants have been awarded to various government and non-profit organizations across the nation. These funds make it possible to provide training, offer victim services, and enhance prosecution efforts. Funding also facilitates programs that foster partnerships between prosecutors, judges, advocates, community organizations, and health care providers to fight against violence against women and support survivors.

"Locally, VAWA funding enables us to continue these efforts and build upon our successes by providing employment opportunities for highly skilled professionals in the Office of the Attorney General," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "At the moment, VAWA funding covers a paralegal, legal assistant, and victim advocates as well as an attorney dedicated solely to the prosecution of cases involving allegations of domestic and sexual violence."

The CNMI has made great strides to strengthen its laws, advocate for victims, engage leaders and partner agencies, expand educational outreach programs, and strengthen partnerships, yet more efforts are needed.

"Without the reauthorization to continue VAWA, the Office of the Attorney General will have to seek local funding sources to ensure continued victims services and the successful prosecution of cases involving domestic and sexual violence," said Criminal Division chief Michele Harris.

Manibusan said the CNMI Office of the Attorney General is pleased to join with other attorneys general from the U.S. mainland and territories to urge a VAWA reauthorization bill that will ensure our nation's most vulnerable victims have a voice and receive justice. ***(OAG)***

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Man serving 45-year prison term wants new lawyer

A prisoner who is serving a 45-year prison term for sexual crimes wants the Superior Court to provide him with a court-appointed lawyer who will contest his suspended sentence from a negotiated plea agreement in his 1997 criminal case, which is the basis for his conviction sentence.

Anthony Rios, through temporary counsel Matthew J. Holley, said he is entitled to a court-appointed lawyer under Commonwealth law.

Holley said the court should appoint a lawyer for Rios because the issues and facts in the case are so complex to require a lawyer, making Rios unable to investigate and present his claims.

Holley said the 1997 case includes a plea to six different counts, containing a sentence of five years to serve without the possibility of parole, and five other counts that are to be both served consecutively and concurrently, with sentences of five to 10 years each.

Holley said the interpretation of the plea agreement involves sufficiently complex legal and factual basis for the court to appoint a lawyer on Rios' behalf.

Rios is serving a 45-year sentence; he said he is unable to afford a lawyer. The DOC library, he said, has limited and often outdated resources and does not contain many court rules and provides no case law.

He claimed he is denied access to the internet to do research for his case.

Camacho

He cited that the issues he needs to research and present are complex legal issues involving constitutional analysis, reduction in sentence and writ of habeas corpus.

Rios has made the same request to the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Writ of habeas corpus refers to a court order to a person (prison warden or institution) holding someone in custody to deliver the imprisoned individual to the court.

Rios had also written the same complaint to the Superior Court.

Last January, after receiving the handwritten letter of Rios, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference and appointed the Office of the Public Defender on the sole issue of whether Rios may still be appointed counsel, considering that he already appealed before the CNMI Supreme Court.

Rios also asked for an appointment of an attorney and filed a notice of petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

According to court records, in 1997, Rios pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual abuse of a child, two counts of oral copulation, and one count of rape. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

After his release from prison in 2003, Rios re-offended and was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

In 2012, the defendant re-offended again and was charged with two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace. Based upon those charges, the government sought to revoke his probation in both the 1997 and 2003 cases.

Before revoking the probation, a trial judge presiding over the revocation hearing—different from the one who had presided over the 1997 and 2003 cases—denied his request for a presentence investigation report.

In 2012, Camacho sentenced Rios to the maximum of 45 years in prison for the 1997 and 2003 cases.

Rios appealed, but in 2015 the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and the 45-year prison term that Camacho imposed on him. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

New law to regulate car rentals

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed last week Senate Bill 20-55 to regulate motor vehicle rental companies in the CNMI.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) introduced the measure, now known as Public Law 20-55.

Torres signed the bill into law on Friday, Sept. 21, but it was overshadowed by P.L. 20-66 (House Bill 20-178 HD4) or the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 that regulates the medicinal and recreational use of cannabis.

Igisomar said the car rental business in the CNMI has grown tremendously, with most of the establishments popping up in Garapan. Vehicle traffic has also increased. Traffic collision involving rental cars have also risen in the past few years.

"Rental companies must ensure that all renters, especially renters who are foreigners, have a valid picture operator's license from the CNMI, U.S. jurisdictions, or their respective foreign country. Rental companies must give renters proper notice of the terms and conditions of a rental agreement as well as disclose all pertinent information, fees, charges, costs associated with a rental agreement," as stated in P.L. 20-65.

Regulating the rental companies in the CNMI is one way of ensuring that these establishments won't charge customers additional fees and other unreasonable charges that are connected to the rental agreement.

"Rental companies and their rental vehicle agents are selling additional insurance coverage for rental motor vehicles without any regulation by the Commonwealth government. The terms, conditions, and provisions of the additional insurance sold by the rental car companies have not been approved by the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner," added the new law.

Safety

Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) hopes the Marianas Visitors Authority would team up with international carriers to educate arriving tourists with local traffic rules and regulations.

Guerrero said it is not only about the safety of tourists but also the community. "The tourists that come here and want to drive are not so knowledgeable of the right of way on our roads.

"Most of us have seen how they drive on our roads. I've seen a couple that the driver was looking at the map while driving at the same time. Who's not going to be scared of that? Or the driver will stop in the middle of the traffic lights. Or there's no respect for the lights itself and drive through," added Guerrero, the House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair.

Some tourists also drive over the speed limit, make sudden U-turns or sharp turns, stop while in the middle of the road, drive along the beach, and even use the center lane as a second lane.

And this, Guerrero said, is where MVA would come in. "…I think MVA should start reaching out to the airlines. Probably, when they are ready to land in the CNMI, they play a video clip or a brochure should be passed to tourists if they are going to drive or will be driving. So they understand the right of way and other traffic rules."

He said that video clips played at car rental shops are not enough.

"Who in their right minds going to sit there and expect to watch that while going through a rental lease agreement? You just wanted to go through that paperwork and go drive yourself to places you wanted to visit." ***(Jon Perez)***

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NMI to receive $6.39M transportation grant

The CNMI will be receiving a $6.4-million grant from the Federal Transit Administration to further improve and modernize the Commonwealth's public bus infrastructure.

The CNMI is the only U.S. territory that was awarded the grant, which totals $6,387,346. Part of the funds will be used to buy more buses to complete the fixed-flex route of Saipan's public transport system.

The money is part of the $386.2 million the FTA gave out for bus systems in the U.S. The money will fund a total of 107 projects spread out in the 50 states, with the CNMI the lone U.S. jurisdiction outside the U.S. mainland, that would receive the funding from the FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program.

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority executive director Alfreda Camacho welcomed the infusion of funds.

"This was a competitive grant which COTA successfully wrote and was selected as one of the 107 of 339 grant applications submitted. Again, this is the biggest amount in competitive grants that COTA has received. A huge success for us all in the CNMI," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune.*

COTA activated the CNMI's first public transportation route last April. It starts at the Northern Marianas College and ends at the Commonwealth Health Center. The bus cuts through Middle Road, goes around the Garapan tourist district, and back to NMC.

"We are very proud to receive this competitive grant award for the CNMI. It reflects our commitment to progress, by truly creating a public transportation system that is comprehensive and reaches the most undeserved and vulnerable areas in our community," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "Public transportation is a crucial step in alleviating poverty, and Alfreda [Camacho], and her hardworking team at COTA are doing their part to make it easier for folks to find a job, go to their medical appointments, or attend classes at [NMC]."

Included in the grant awarded to the CNMI is the construction of COTA's maintenance facility and administrative building, 37 prefabricated solar bus shelters, and 12 American with Disabilities Act-compliant transit buses.

Camacho said COTA was fortunate to be able to work with their federal counterpart. "The [FTA] Region IX team has been right by our side ready to assist us."

She added that public transportation is somewhat a new concept that will not happen overnight "but I am hopeful because of the outpouring of support we have been shown thus far."

Camacho thanked Torres, her staff, and the cooperation of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse. "Thank you to all disability network partners, the 20th CNMI Legislature, the Office of Planning and Development, [NMC], Kagman Community Health Center, Karidat, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for their support letters."

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao said the grants would help rebuild and modernize a safer bus system. The money would fund projects that would replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment, and to purchase, rehabilitate, and construct bus-related facilities.

FTA acting administrator K. Jane Williams added: "Bus transportation is the most widely available form of public transportation across the country. These grants are a significant step in achieving the administration's goal of rebuilding our nation's transportation infrastructure." ***(Jon Perez)***

ERRATUM

Yesterday's story, entitled "It came down to track records," mistakenly referred to Juan N. Babauta's running mate as Rita Inos. This is incorrect; it should be Rita Sablan. Our apologies.

CEC mails 1,377 absentee ballots, 119 more to be sent

The Commonwealth Election Commission mailed yesterday 1,377 absentee ballots and will mail about 119 more tomorrow, Friday, according to CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol.

Igitol said the ballots that were mailed yesterday are for voters who are in the U.S. mainland, Guam, Switzerland, Canada, and Federated States of Micronesia.

Of the 1,377 absentee ballots mailed, 10 are intended for those on Saipan.

"They are leaving on Saturday. They want to get their ballots before they leave, so they came in and applied for absentee voting," Igitol said.

The second batch of 119 absentee ballots will be mailed tomorrow, Friday, but Igitol said they don't know yet where the ballots would go because they are still sorting or processing the ballots.

Igitol said they're trying to see it they are able to process everything before Friday because the Office of the Public Auditor has a workshop next week and they won't be able to come down to CEC and inspect the ballots.

Igitol said they will not send out anything next week but mail the next batch tomorrow.

CEC may mail a total of four batches of absentee ballots as Oct. 12 is the deadline for application for absentee voting by electronic/mail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MORGUE

From Page 1

claimed at the morgue.

Tankersley's remains have been in the morgue since April 18, 2018. He was born on Nov. 25, 1938. Tran's remains have been in the morgue since Nov. 5, 2017; he was born on May 30, 1947.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña told *Saipan Tribune* that it is the corporation's policy to bury or cremate the remains of unclaimed bodies two weeks after a public announcement is made in the local newspapers.

"CHCC wants to give the decedents peace with a burial. Once we complete the necessary procedures, per the regulations, we will make the burial arrangements," she said.

CHCC manager of general support services Thomas Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they have had trouble getting in touch with the next of kin of the remains. He did not identify the third body. The third unidentified body has reportedly been at the morgue since earlier this year.

According to the CNMI regulations on disposition of abandoned remains, the CHCC CEO may arrange with a funeral establishment or crematorium for unclaimed human remains, excluding historic human remains, to be interred or cremated after the bodies have remained unclaimed for more than two weeks.

The policy further noted that the funeral establishment would maintain the documentation of the unclaimed remains that were interred or cremated.

Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that the normal place of burial for unclaimed remains is at the Tanapag Cemetery.

He issued public notices yesterday to notify the public of the two remains, so they may be claimed by any next of kin.

BAN

From Page 1

trols where these workers go. Last Aug. 17, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration banned deploying Filipino workers to FSM in response to reports of abuse and maltreatment of foreign workers there.

That report about alleged abuses by employers is news to Lozada. "Personally, I have not experienced any maltreatment from my employer nor heard about other Filipinos being maltreated by their employers in Pohnpei."

"In Pohnpei, many Filipinos work in the stores, offices, and the hospital. I plan to finish my contract, which will end early next year, and move to another job in a new country—not because of the ban but by personal choice," Lozada added.

The minimum wage for private sector workers in Pohnpei is $1.75 per hour and one only needs a work permit, which FSM immigration requires in specific job categories.

There are approximately 2,000 Filipino workers in FSM, which is made up of four island states: Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, and Yap.

The POEA, which imposed the ban, only allows the deployment of Filipino workers to countries that have a legal framework that protects these workers' rights.

The POEA resolution on the ban was based on reports that date back to June of last year of maltreatment and abuses of Filipino workers that led to the POEA blacklisting the Chuuk State Hospital. It also stated that the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs recommends the ban until FSM settles the unresolved cases and improve the working conditions of Filipino workers.

The ban took effect on Sept. 7, 2018, after the FSM Consulate received the diplomatic note that confirmed the ban. According to an article from *The Kaselehlie Press* dated Sept. 17, 2018, FSM is at a loss as to why the whole country was banned because no report of abuse or maltreatment has been made at the Chuuk State Hospital.

The report further stated that FSM Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Lorrin Robert said that the FSM Department of Justice has not received complaints from Filipino workers at the national level.

Robert added that he has written to each of the four state governors to see if any reports have been made at the state level. Currently, FSM is waiting for the reports of abuse and maltreatment of Filipino workers at the state levels before it comes up with a plan on how to resolve the situation with the Philippines.

The United Filipino Community of Pohnpei also issued a statement that, as far as they are concerned, they have not received any reports of abuse and maltreatment of Filipino workers. In fact, they have asked the Pohnpei Gov. Marcelo Peterson and FSM President Peter Christian to help Filipino workers who may need assistance.

SALARY

From Page 1

Lawmaker' current salary is at $39,300 per annum.

Public Law 19-83 would have boosted that to $70,000 per annum. The Supreme Court, however, ruled that the salary increase in P.L. 19-83 is unconstitutional, including the previous pay hikes enacted by public laws 4-32 (1985) and 7-8 (1990).

In a status conference yesterday, the Superior Court decided that the Supreme Court decision won't be retroactive and that sitting lawmakers should receive their regular salaries of $39,300 per annum until their term ends when the House and Senate adjourns.

To provide for an increased pay for lawmakers, the 20th Legislature must act on this issue before the start of the 21st Legislature in January.

House members, like Rep. Ed. Propst (Ind-Saipan), confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they received their regular salaries. Propst added that it is up to the Superior Court to determine if public laws 19-83, 7-8, and 4-32 are unconstitutional.

In last month's ruling, the Supreme Court instructed the Superior Court to resume proceedings to determine if the salary increases—starting from P.L. 4-32—should be deemed void.

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said that what the Superior Court did was to retain lawmakers' regular salary of $39,300 and now the next step is to wait for the Superior Court's final ruling.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) said in an earlier interview that the highest salary that legislators could get is $32,000, based on the CPI if the wage advisory commission reconvenes following the same process as stated in the law in determining salary increases.

The Legislature would establish the advisory commission, which will then make recommendations on the compensation of all Commonwealth officers in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government. The CPI is developed to determine the salary increases needed to maintain a person's standard of living.

If the annual salaries of legislators return to $8,000, as it was more than 30 years ago, they would be getting a gross of just $666.66 per month.

STRIDES

From Page 1

beetles that have infested Rota's coconut trees is proving fruitful.

"We are doing good. Every two months we find one. … Before, in a month, we would find three adults…but now, in two months, we didn't find anything, then near the end of those two months, we catch lke one," he said.

Benavente said the department went all out and attacked the problem early on, and that led to their present success. Breeding traps were immediately deployed on Rota soon after the beetles were discovered in Oct. 2017.

He said the DLNR increased the number of traps placed in the quarantined area to control the infestation and an island-wide visual survey for signs of coconut rhino beetle presence was conducted.

Benavente said the infected trees remain standing and will survive the attack.

Also contributing to their efforts on Rota is the habitat. "There is a good possibility that our wildlife habitat on Rota is attacking the coconut rhino beetles' production. … Something seems to be eating the eggs. …We are very lucky here in the CNMI because we don't have snakes, so there are predators that attack the rhino beetles., unlike Guam, where all these predators that are attacking the rhino beetles are being eaten up by the snakes. That is why we have to be very protective of our islands from snakes," said Benavente.

The department has also been vigilant in keeping invasive species out of the CNMI like the brown tree snake.

"There is money that the federal government is providing us to really make sure we prevent them from coming in here. … It could take just a boat ride…or an airline. It could be the military. That is why when these things come in, our brown tree snakes dogs are out there," he said.

The federal government has allotted $181,000 for the eradication of the rhino beetles and has allotted about $400,000 against brown tree snakes entering the CNMI.

Last October 2017, the department discovered the presence of 20 adult rhino beetles and multiple grubs on Rota when a coconut tree fell to the ground at the Tweksberry Beach Park, southwest of the West Marina on Rota.

PH consul: A final chance to register for overseas voting

The Philippine Consulate Office in Guam reminds Filipino citizens to register as an absentee voter while they are here because it would be the last chance to do so.

Philippine Consul to Guam Mark Francis Hamoy told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that the current consular outreach, which spans from Tuesday through today, Thursday, is accepting walk-ins to accommodate those seeking to register as an absentee voter for the upcoming 2019 Philippine elections.

"For those who want to vote in the 2019 national elections, the deadline for registration is Sept. 30, 2018. This would be the last opportunity…to register as an overseas voter," he said.

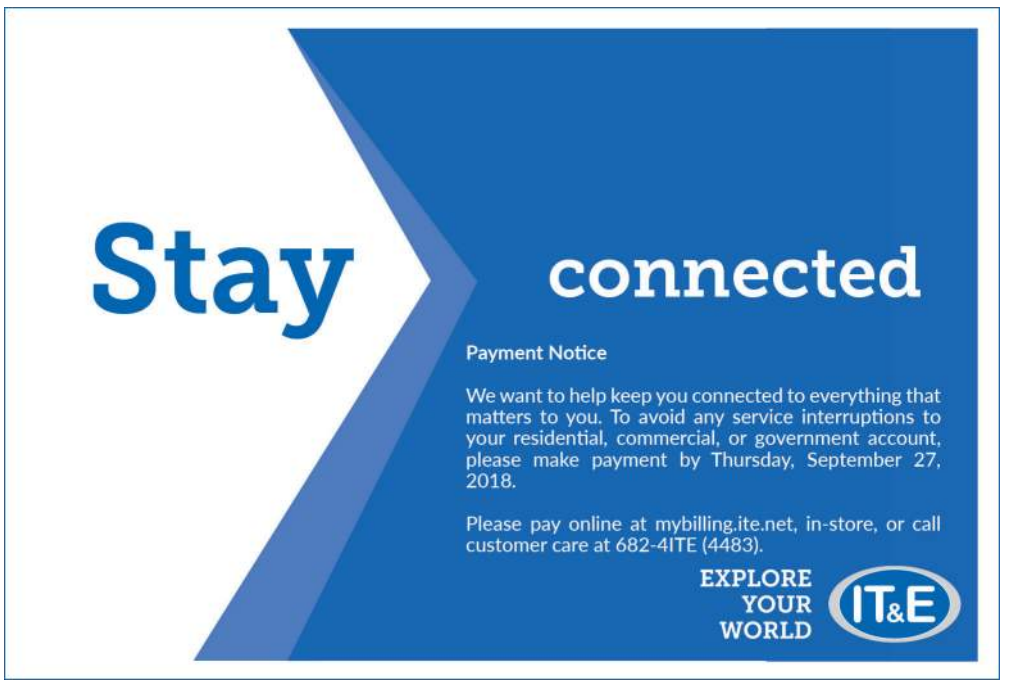
After Sept. 30, in order to register as an overseas voter, one must at least fly over to Guam to visit the Philippine Consulate-General just to register.

Hamoy reiterated that the Philippine consular outreach would only be on Saipan from Tuesday through Thursday, in the Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Susupe from 8am to 5pm.

As of 4pm Tuesday, the outreach was able to entertain 126 passport renewal applicants, one extension of passport validity, two petitions for re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship, one report of birth, and one affidavit for delayed registration of report of birth.

Saipan Tribune learned that the outreach is readily expecting 420 passport application renewals.

Hamoy noted that since Philippine honorary consul Glicerio Arago could accommodate some consular services, the outreach would be providing the remaining services. ***(Erwin Encinares)***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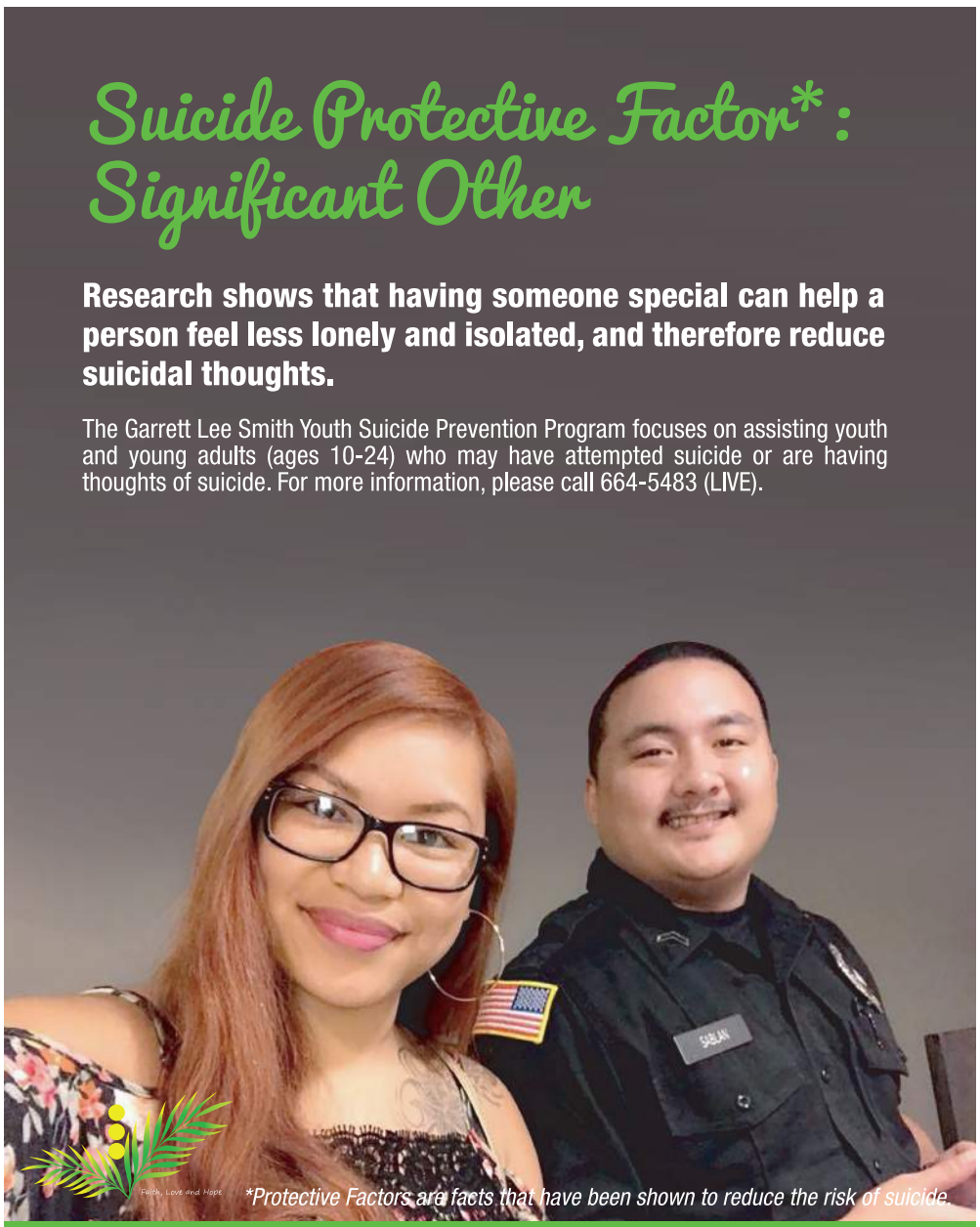
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*Protective Factors are facts that have been shown to reduce the risk of suicide.
This ad was developed in part under grant number 1H79SM062879-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

H.O.M.E. VISITING PROGRAM

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- Enrolled Prenatally or
- With a child no older than 3 months of age
- Standardized screening tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and benefit from the program

For more information, please call (670)664-8702
or via email at hvpcnmi@gmail.com

Healthy Families CNMI
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number X02MC28239, Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program grant.

13 fishermen remembered

ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's been 32 years since the 13 fishermen were lost at sea on Sept. 23, 1986, and their families gathered over the weekend to commemorate, honor, and remember the group. For the first time, the commemoration was held at the Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan instead of the 13 Fishermen's Memorial along Beach Road.

The 13 fishermen's families, who still remember the day their loved ones went off to sea, honored their loved ones Sunday as the Carolinian Affairs Office held a Mass at the Kristo Rai Parish before heading to the monument to offer their respects in the form of flowers, candles, and prayers.

The family members of Guillermo Saures, which consisted of Bryan Saures Kaipat and his aunt, the sister of Saures, said their family still remembers him annually.

Kaipat, who was not able to meet his uncle, said that if he were to say anything to his uncle, it would be, "Please watch over us."

Angie Teregeyo, who is the niece of Benusto Lisua, said she only remembers her uncle through stories.

"I really don't remember him growing up, but hearing stories about him from my mom and other relatives makes me wish I knew him that well," she said.

"[This ceremony] is really special. Having all the families attending the ceremony together is a wonderful thing," Teregeyo said. She added that the ceremony made her emotional.

Florence Selepeo Kirby, who organized the commemoration, noted that they first thought of stopping the memorial starting on the 30th year of the incident and turn it into a more upbeat occasion.

"No more memorial. We are going to have a celebration; we need to let their spirit go so even we can start feeling happy," she said, also fighting back tears. Kirby is sibling to one of the 13 fishermen, Sylvestre Selepeo. "It's been a long time. We should move forward," she added.

The 2018 commemoration had traditional dances and a lunch buffet.

Angie Teregeyo, left, poses with her family at the 13 Fishermen's Memorial Sunday. ERWIN ENCINARES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-025

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EXTENSION FOR THE CNMI MEDICAID OFFICE BUILDING CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of New Extension for the CNMI Medicaid Office Building Capitol Hill**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 20, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 17, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-025"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 26, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **November 7, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 12, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on October 26, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-002

ACCESSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CDA BUILDING

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Accessible Improvements for the Ground Floor of the CDA Building,** Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 27, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 16, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the CDA conference room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 22, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 31, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, October 31, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 31, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 13, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 16, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on October 31, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty-Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

MANUEL A. SABLAN
CDA Executive Director

Town House

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PCF tackles environment, infrastructure

Cohorts of the 2018 Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter were given a ringside seat on what needs to be done to improve the CNMI's infrastructure and how to save the environment during its August session.

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance was the first stop, with program manager Becky Furey giving the cohorts a rundown of the group's many efforts to keep the islands pristine.

MINA's goal is to "establish an island culture of recycling to reduce marine debris in the region's waters" with the ultimate goal of eliminating single-use items like straw, paper plates, etc.

MINA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the natural resources of the region. It also fosters community and science-based conservation programs to enhance and sustain Micronesia's environments and cultures.

MINA's programs include Marine Debris Prevention, Adopt-A-Bin, Environmental Camp, and Tasi Watch, while Micronesia Challlenge-2020 and Managaha Marine Conservation Area are its two projects.

Bruce Mailman, board member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board, said that Saipan really didn't have any zoning plan from the very start.

Saipan got started when the CNMI adopted the zoning plan of Cleveland, Ohio. Although not really a great fit for Saipan's setting, Mailman said this got the CNMI going in sectioning Saipan's industrial and residential areas.

He said zoning laws got seriously enforced with the enactment of the 2013 Saipan Zoning Law and the creation of the zoning board.

Currently, one of the goals of the Zoning board is the elimination of urban blight. Based on the Zoning Office's count, there are a total of 54 blighted structures on Saipan. Rota and Tinian have no zoning plans to date.

The PCF cohorts then met with special assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda P. Camacho at the Northern Marianas College. That got the group on a road trip aboard the Commonwealth Office of Transport Authority's bus to sample COTA's first route: From NMC to Middle Road, to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, and back to NMC.

Camacho said that COTA is looking to open a second route that would run through Middle Road.

She is optimistic that COTA's ridership would increase despite the competition from illegal taxis.

In a visit to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Power Plan 1, the cohort learned how CUC maintains its power engines and how the agency is amenable to greener alternatives.

Talks with Division of Environmental Quality director Ray Masga and Richard Salas of Coastal Resources Management gave the cohorts an idea of how daunting the two agencies' tasks are in permitting, monitoring, and making sure businesses are up to environmental standards when they build on the beach or on land in the CNMI.

Tina Sablan, who works for Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) but spoke to cohorts as an urban planner, focused on planning in general.

Sablan said that development shouldn't only be measured by gross domestic product but should also be gauged through the public's general wellbeing—a balance between work and play.

Earlier this month, former Commonwealth Health Center medical director Richard Brostrom shared his thoughts on the high incidence of noncommunicable diseases in the CNMI: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes, among others.

He said that prior to Spanish colonization, NCDs were alien to the islands. It was only with the advent of processed foods and inactivity that NCDs took hold on the islands, Brostrom said.

He said the CNMI should follow up on the success of taxing tobacco by enacting a sugar tax on sugar-sweetened beverage to have a fighting chance in curbing the spread of NCDs in the Commonwealth.

Brostrom, who now works for the Center for Communicable Diseases, also wants more physical education classes in schools and for private companies to bankroll sports competitions. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter cohorts pose with special assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda P. Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter cohorts at the Power Plant 1 of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter cohorts pose with Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance program manager Becky Furey.

PUBLIC NOTICE

15th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 29, 2018 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. FPA
   b. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Proclamations
   a. Head Start Month
   b. Anti-Bullying Month
2. Financing for USDA Loan
3. Proposed Personnel Regulations Amendments re Sick Leave & Sick Donations (60-30.2-720, 30.2-780 & 60-30.3-620)
4. Proposed Student Attendance Amendment (60-20-240)
5. Proposed Procurement Amendments Re Protests & Appeals
6. Annual Report School Year 17-18
7. Proposed Data Governance Policy
8. Proposed Amendments to Certification & Licensure
9. Certification and Licensure Report No. 2018-010
10. Commissioner of Education

VI. Executive Session[3]
a. Legal Updates
b. Personnel/Certification
c. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 04, 2018
5:00 PM, Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 09/13/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. Conditional Use Application #2018-1281: Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Board review and action on proposed ATV, UTV, Motorcycle Regs
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Magisland, LLC
dba: Saipan Beach Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: Thursday, October 04, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 03, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

PATA Travel Mart includes gold award for MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy manager director Judy Torres, second from left, receives the Pacific-Asia Travel Association Gold Award during PATA Travel Mart on Sept. 14, 2018, in Langkawi, Malaysia. From left are director of the Macao Government Tourism Office Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Torres, MVA Tour Guide Certification manager Kuen-Hee Han, and PATA CEO Mario Hardy.
MVA

The PATA Gold Awards recognized outstanding tourism programs at the PATA Travel Mart on Sept. 14, 2018, in Langkawi, Malaysia. The Marianas Visitors Authority's Tour Guide Certification Program was awarded.
MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, fourth from right, and members of PATA Micronesia chapter from the Marianas, Guam, and Palau promote the region at PATA Travel Mart on Sept. 12-14, 2018, in Langkawi, Malaysia.
MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority's "Official Marianas Guide" tour guide certification program was awarded the 2018 PATA Gold Award from the Pacific Asia Travel Association on Sept. 14, 2018, in Langkawi, Malaysia.

The awards ceremony took place during PATA Travel Mart 2018, where MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres and Tour Guide certification manager Kuen-Hee Han were in attendance to receive the award and promote the Marianas with other members of the PATA Micronesia chapter.

"The Marianas has been an active member of the PATA Micronesia chapter for many years, proudly promoting the region with our partners in Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands," said Torres. "The MVA is honored to receive now our second PATA Gold Award, which demonstrates that not only can we learn a lot from our PATA partners, but that the Marianas is also setting an example for the region in terms of excellence."

This year's awards, again supported and sponsored by the Macao Government Tourism Office, attracted 200 entries from 87 organizations and individuals worldwide. The winners were selected by an independent judging committee consisting of 14 senior executives from the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors.

The PATA Grand Awards are presented to outstanding entries in four principal categories: Marketing; Environment, Heritage and Culture, and Education and Training, the category which the MVA Tour Guide Certification Program was awarded under. The MVA's award was presented under the category of Education and Training.

"This gold award proves that recognition is possible with cooperation and sincerity," said Han.

In 2000 the Marianas' Saipanda Destination Program was awarded the PATA Gold Award in the National Marketing Program–Under $1 Million category. ***(MVA)***

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance September 27th, 2018 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from August 23rd, 2018
II. **Public Comments**
III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. Committee
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/ Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. **Old Business**
   1. Re-examination of SHEFA application deadline for NMTI
V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2018 application status
   2. Discussion - Increase grant-in-aid amount for both off-island and on-island recipients
VI. **Executive Session**
VII. **Misc.**
VIII. **Next Meeting**
IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Taking food from the mouths of immigrant kids

Last year, Baltimore area food bank operators noticed a significant downturn in Latino clients. They worried that local immigrants—with legal status and green cards—were deliberately avoiding applying for the SNAP program out of fear that they'd be targeted for deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Such was the power of the anti-immigrant rhetoric coming from President Donald Trump and members of his administration.

Now, those fears appear to have been wholly justified with the announcement over the weekend of new rules from the Department of Homeland Security that could deny visas or work permits to any immigrant who was found to have ever used public benefits. In addition to food stamps, that includes Medicaid, Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits and Section 8 housing vouchers. Using such benefits above a certain level would be considered "a heavily weighed negative factor" in granting green cards and temporary stays.

The Trump administration's thinking appears to be that individuals who are working in low-paying jobs or seasonal work or have suffered a serious illness in the family or the other various ways they might have qualified for subsidized food, shelter or housing aren't fit to remain in this country or become full-fledged citizens. It is a serious rewriting of the American dream. No longer is this country looking for "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," it's looking for affluent people to buy their way in.

Make no mistake, this has nothing to do with undocumented immigration. Such individuals aren't eligible for public benefits. Instead, this is an effort to make the United States less hospitable to people who are here legally—and perhaps to save taxpayers some money. Administration officials claim the new rules could reduce spending up to $2.7 billion annually as individuals who are eligible for federal aid choose to not apply for it. But that requires a highly selective type of accounting.

What happens when families choose not to get help with housing, medications or food? They suffer. They are hungrier, sicker, poorer. Perhaps the 380,000 or more affected will reach out to soup kitchens or shelters or maybe they'll simply go without—or, sadly, some may turn to crime in desperation. The list of those likely to do the suffering include a lot of children since studies show that nearly half of all SNAP benefits go to people under the age of 18. And for what reason? Why treat people who are here lawfully as lesser beings? To punish them for "playing by the rules," as Trump supporters like to say when they distinguish "legal" immigrants from the "illegal" variety?

Are we not a nation of immigrants? Do we not have compassion? Terrorizing immigrant families into not using basic public assistance, the social safety net programs that we can all rely on if times get hard, isn't an American value. It

See TAKING on Next Page

YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO RUiN A MAN'S CAREER BASED ON AN UNPROVEN ALLEGATiON.
KAVANAUGH CASE
UNLESS THE ALLEGATiON iS THAT HE WAS BORN iN KENYA.
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Belief now outweighs truth in the Kavanaugh hearings

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

This has become grotesque.

President Trump loves to yell "witch hunt!" at the Russian collusion investigation, but even if he is cleared of all wrongdoing, "witch hunt" is the wrong term. Special counsel Robert Mueller is looking for actual evidence that can withstand scrutiny in a court of law.

Real witch hunts aren't about evidence but rather belief. Inconvenient facts are discarded, and the convenient ones are larded with innuendo and rumor and thrown at the feet of the accused like so much kindling for the auto-da-fe.

Before The New Yorker published an article in which another woman, Deborah Ramirez, conjures a memory of Brett Kavanaugh, this time about him exposing himself, the party line from Democrats and much of the media was that anyone who accuses a man of sexual assault must be assumed to be telling the truth.

Kavanaugh's first accuser is Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh tried to rape her 36 years ago in a house she cannot identify, at a time she cannot specify, at a party none of her named witnesses can corroborate. Even the dear friend Ford said was present, Leland Keyser, says she never knew Kavanaugh and does not remember attending the party. She does say she believes Ford though.

And belief is all that matters.

"We believe Dr. Ford," Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) said, speaking for many colleagues who've made similar declarations of faith.

"The truth is, I believe her," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.). "She has a credible allegation against Judge Kavanaugh."

OK, but credible means "believable," not "true."

Au contraire, cry the witch-hunters.

"The existence of credible allegations against Judge Kavanaugh should be disqualifying," writes law professor Kate Shaw in the New York Times. "If members of the Senate conclude that a credible accusation of sexual misconduct has been made against Judge Kavanaugh, that should be enough to disqualify him."

But even credibility requires more than simply saying the right words or incanting the required shibboleths.

"Look, if someone says, 'My car got stolen,' you don't presume they're lying," Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "But if someone says, 'I was sexually abused,' people today sometimes presume that they're making it up."

This is misleading on many levels. First, the only senator on the Judiciary Committee to dismiss Ford's claim was Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who sat on it for weeks until it was ripe enough to weaponize. The Republicans instantly offered to give Ford a hearing, in private or in public or even in California.

Second, we don't presume the person whose car is stolen is lying. But we do presume the individual accused of stealing it is innocent until evidence says otherwise.

But when proof is subordinated to mere belief, the standard for evidence is reduced to whatever bolsters the belief. That's why Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) could say with a straight face on CNN that she believes Judge Kavanaugh attempted rape 36 years ago because of the way he decides cases. Countless others have imputed guilt to Kavanaugh because other men "like him" have done bad things. Journalist Frank Rich tweeted, "Kavanaugh's bragging about coaching girls' basketball is troubling in retrospect."

This is the kind of hysteria that drove The New Yorker to "report" that Kavanaugh exposed himself at a party the authors cannot even confirm he attended. (Nor could other news outlets that declined to publish the allegation.)

The accuser, who had never mentioned the story until Kavanaugh was nominated, came forward only after Democratic operatives contacted her, but she "was reluctant to characterize Kavanaugh's role in the alleged incident with certainty." When she asked her friends about the events in question, no one could corroborate

See BELIEF on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Lunatic' columnist's fan mail shows his 'idiocy knows no bounds'

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

It had been a while since I last descended the moldy spiral staircase to my Reader Fan Mail Dungeon.

As you might imagine, things had piled up.

So I put a clothespin on my nose to protect from the lingering troll stench and waded into the loving words of my adoring readers.

When I was done, breathless and covered in an unidentifiable green slime, I carried a few choice missives back up so I could respond to them and share with you all a taste of the milk of human kindness. (Certain loving profanities have been removed so that milk doesn't taste too sour.)

One recent email came in under the subject line: "What an (expletive) crack article about Kavanaugh."

The reader was referring to a column on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, and the note began: "Look, i'm not going to deep into this because the editorial you wrote has been written 10,000 times already by other lunatic due process hating progressives like yourself."

Thank you, Mr. (Expletive) Crack. I appreciate you not going too (or "to," if you prefer) deep into my (expletive) crack article. Heaven knows what you might have found. Also, you should capitalize "Lunatic Due Process Hating Progressives." It's a formal club.

Another note responding to the same Kavanaugh column read: "How are you even a writer/commentator/journalist? You're obviously biased—trying to drill into our heads your stance. Please choose another profession as you suck at this one. By the way, the accuser sounds like a little (expletive)—much like yourself. Man up!!!"

I apologize for being a biased opinion writer who tries to drill his stance into peoples' heads. That was wrong of me and I promise to knock it off. I agree that I do suck at this profession, but I've tried finding another one and it just never works out. There's not much of a market for clown school dropouts like myself. Perhaps if I man up, the offers will start coming.

"Your idiocy knows no bounds!"

Indeed! It's like the universe—ever-expanding.

"Your blogging is worse every day..If guys like you did not have Trump and his business to talk about,your all nobodies.. What happened to the Chicago Tribune being a reliable newspaper..It is so sad."

Thank you for reading my blog that I don't have, and for participating in the Experimental Punctuation Movement!

"kiss my American white a$$."

Is the "American white a$$" an albino donkey that wears a lot of bling?

"Now I just got another reason to cancel my 45 year subscription to the (expletive) tribune which is sinking and now completely sunk by (expletive) brainwashed leftist morons like you. You and your ilk are complete lunatics devoid of a brain."

I admit, my ilk are complete lunatics. But we aren't devoid of a brain. We all share one, which we keep in the break room refrigerator.

"You are a obviously a complete idiot. Your bias is unbelievable and insulting to the average American. I'll buy your one way ticket to Venezuela where (expletive) like you will fit right in!!!"

Sweet! Free vacation!

"You continue to be one of the most idiotic people I've ever read who you blewfor your job is obvious. Please jump off a high cliff yesterday."

I appreciate the thoughts, but I will tell you, good sir, I have never "blewfor" anyone. And jumping off a high cliff yesterday would require a time machine, which, after reading your email, I very much wish I had.

Another recent note came in under the subject line: "Fool idiot disgrace to journalism wipe that Smersh off your silly face."

I'll respond just to that part: Yes, I do have Smersh on my silly face. It's something I was born with—both the Smersh and the silly face—and it's my cross to bear. Living with Smersh is not easy, and I will not be cowed by Smershists like yourself. #SmershStrong

"You are a complete idiot! Write about a subject that actually makes a difference ! Like I said before,your writing skills or better yet, your lack of imagination and creativity is lacking! Your smarmy personality and decisive columns reveal who you really are."

If my "lack" of imagination and creativity is "lacking," then that means I have ample imagination and creativity! And thank you for calling my columns decisive. Too kind.

Where does the *Trib* find dip(expletive)s like you?

That's a great question. As you might imagine, a newspaper of the *Chicago Tribune*'s stature doesn't settle for any run-of-the-mill dip(expletive). They put dip(expletive)s through a rigorous interview process that weeds out lesser dip(expletive) s and guarantees that only masters of dip(expletive)ery are granted opinion columns that allow them to engage respectfully with thoughtful readers.

This last one was my favorite, probably because it was written in all-caps. People who write in all-caps are always considerate thinkers.

It came in under the subject line: "(EXPLETIVE) YOU DUMB SACK OF (EXPLETIVE)."

"(EXPLETIVE) YOU (EXPLETIVE) YOUR (EXPLETIVE) MOTHER. (EXPLETIVE) YOUR FAMILY. (EXPLETIVE) EVERYONE WHO THINKS LIKE YOU."

It's always nice when people take the time to write.

BELIEF

From Page 10

it. So, she spent six days "assessing her memories" and decided it must have happened. The only "corroboration" offered is from an anonymous "witness" who wasn't there, but claims to remember someone else saying it happened. In other words: a rumor.

Make no mistake, there are witches out there (or, more accurately, warlocks). We know men have done horrific things. We know that coming forward is difficult for victims, and that they should be treated respectfully. But as G.K. Chesterton observed: "It is one thing to believe in witches, and quite another to believe in witch-smellers."

Wanting evidence from a specific accuser is not a "threat to democracy," as Feinstein claims. It's essential to it. And merely believing otherwise doesn't change that fact.

TAKING

From Page 10

just isn't. Instead, what appears to be happening with this rule-making so close to midterm elections is yet another effort to pit Trump supporters against Latino immigrants. The administration wants to paint such individuals with a broad and often racist brush—not as hardworking aspiring U.S. citizens but as rapists, murders, MS-13 gang members or, in this case, freeloaders who intend to live on the dole.

While it's true that new arrivals often come without much in the way of tangible assets and their first jobs are low-paying and they sometimes need help, studies have shown that their children and grandchildren tend to prosper, more than making up for whatever public benefits they required. Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a report that found refugees "brought in $63 billion more in government revenues over the past decade than they cost." That makes the economics of the DHS plan questionable at best.

If the Trump administration wants to save money or reduce the deficit, it's not difficult to come up with suggestions—reducing government subsidies to commercial activities alone could save the government tens of billions of dollars; raising the federal gas tax rate to keep up with inflation since it was last raised a quarter-century ago would accomplish even more. But those more meaningful actions wouldn't provide the president with a political talking point going into November. Better, apparently, to "get tough" on vulnerable families.

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To curb flooding, improve urban design

By STEFAN AL
Tribune News Service

Stefan Al, Ph.D., is an architect, urban designer and infrastructure expert at global design firm Kohn Pedersen Fox in New York. His latest book is Adapting Cities to Sea Level Rise: Green and Gray Strategies *published by Island Press. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by* The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

Over the course of four days in mid-September, Hurricane Florence dumped a record-breaking 34 inches of rain on Swansboro, North Carolina—a city that usually gets 57 inches in an entire year.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey caused the worst flood in Houston's history. In 2012, flooding from Superstorm Sandy—considered a once-in-700-year event—devastated coastal New York and New Jersey.

These and other events are typically called natural disasters. But overwhelming scientific consensus says they are actually the result of human-induced climate change and irresponsible construction in flood-prone areas.

Most scientists agree that global warming is causing sea levels to rise, while increasing the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events. At the same time, the rapid urbanization of coastal areas is putting more people and property in harm's way.

Given this new normal, it is time to rethink our approach to floods. We typically deal with only the symptoms of the problem, by evacuating residents before a disaster, housing them temporarily in emergency shelters, and paying insurance so that they can rebuild afterward.

But this is tremendously costly, both in human and financial terms.

Moody's Analytics has tallied at least $17 billion in property damage from Florence so far. Harvey cost $125 billion and the tally for Maria in Puerto Rico is $139 billion. Katrina destroyed $161 billion in property.

Fortunately, the right infrastructure can prevent flooding, rather than treat it after the fact. Prevention is cost-effective: The National Institute of Buildings Services estimates that every dollar spent on the reduction of a community's vulnerability to disasters saves approximately $6 in economic losses.

As an architect and urban designer working on large-scale projects, as well as a native of the Netherlands, a low-lying country that wouldn't exist without flood-management infrastructure, I have been intrigued by recent, innovative solutions to flood prevention.

For example, the beach town of Cleveleys, in England, chose not to build a standard concrete seawall, which has all the charm of a military bunker and can block human access to the shore.

Instead, the city built a structure with amphitheater-like viewing spaces and steps. The steps accentuate the beautiful curvilinear shapes, while creating access to the beach and adding public space, which is important for a coastal town that relies on tourists.

Flood protection can even be integrated into buildings. The Dutch coastal town Katwijk aan Zee integrated a levee with a parking garage, and covered it with landscaping. In Rotterdam, levees include built-in shops and parks. This type of infrastructure has economic benefits beyond flood protection.

Finally, some of the best solutions rely on an ancient flood protection device: dune grass, a saltwater tolerant plant that stabilizes dunes and prevents erosion. In contrast to reinforced concrete defenses that take the full force of waves until they are worn away by the sea, dunes absorb the waves' velocity, while beautifying the landscape and providing habitats.

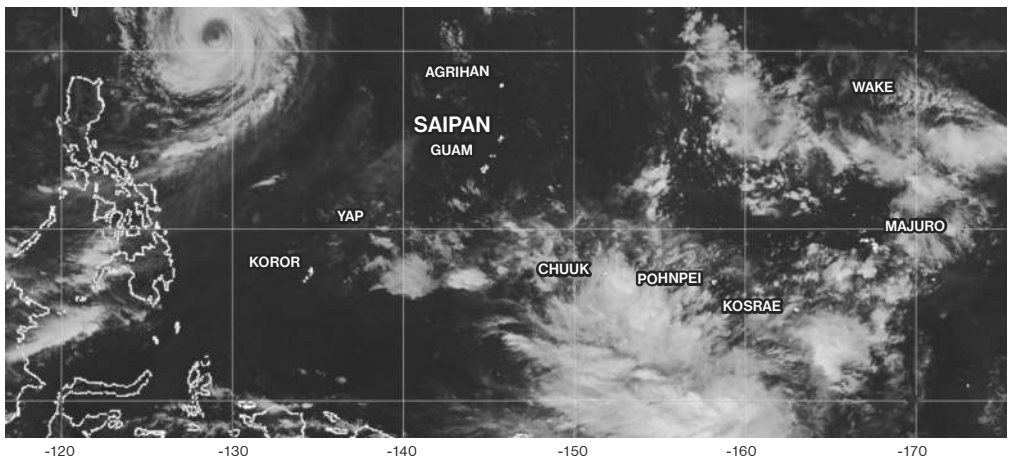
By marrying flood management with creative urban and landscape design, infrastructure can become a strategic civic asset. In addition, it can pay for itself by unlocking the real estate and economic development potential of newly protected areas. The new normal of flooding and sea-level rise poses great challenges, but it also offers opportunities to improve our urban areas and landscapes.

Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies are seen across the region this morning with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms seen to the south of Guam waters. A band of weak convergence to the southwest of Guam waters will maintain the possibility of scattered scattered showers across the southern Guam waters through the day along with isolated thunderstorms. For Guam, light and variable winds will result in island convection a little later this morning. Therefore, decided to add scattered showers beginning around mid-morning for Guam for today, with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers returning by tonight. The big story for the remainder of the week is the weak circulation centered to the southeast of Pohnpei. Model consensus still brings this system through the Marianas over the weekend, with an overall wet pattern likely. The models diverge, however, when it comes to intensity of the system. The GFS remains the most aggressive model, bringing the circulation across Guam as a significant tropical cyclone Saturday morning. The ECMWF and NAVGEM also bring the system over or near Guam, but as a much weaker system, with the ECMWF being the weakest. It is too early to tell how strong this circulation will get, but what is likely is that it will be a wet weekend. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are forecast to begin friday night and continue through Sunday before decreasing to isolated showers. By Tuesday, a fairly dry pattern is expected to return to the Marianas.

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	77° / 52°
Hong Kong	Sunny	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
London	Sunny	75° / 54°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	86° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 41°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	70° / 62°
Osaka	Rain	72° / 64°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	79° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 69°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	75° / 64°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	68° / 61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.35
8:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
3:13 PM	LOW TIDE	0.49
9:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:38 AM	7:49 PM
Friday	-	8:30 AM	8:32 PM
Saturday	-	9:24 AM	9:18 PM
Sunday	-	10:21 AM	10:07 PM
Monday	-	11:18 AM	11:01 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	1, 3, 5
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Business

Clouds on horizon as trade wars and debt weigh on Asia's growth

BANGKOK (AP)—Trade conflicts, rising debt and the potential impact from rising interest rates in the U.S. will likely dampen growth in the coming year, the Asian Development Bank said Wednesday in an update of its regional economic outlook report.

The Manila, Philippines-based regional lender said Wednesday that it expects economic growth in Asia to remain at a robust 6.0 percent in 2018 but to slip to 5.8 percent next year.

China's economy is expected to expand at a 6.6 percent annual pace this year but slow to 6.3 percent in 2019.

It cited looming financial and trade shocks as the biggest sources of potential trouble. If the U.S. economy shows signs of overheating, interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, including one expected Wednesday to take the benchmark rate to 2-2.25 percent, could disrupt currency markets and other capital flows, leading to problems with bad loans.

Overly high housing prices also are risks for China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and South Korea, the report said.

But it said the bigger threat comes from potential damage to supply chains caused by trade conflicts, especially between the U.S. and China.

President Donald Trump pushed ahead Monday with higher tariffs on $200 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing retaliated by imposing penalties on $60 billion of U.S. goods.

The conflict stemming from U.S. complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology, has the potential to shave 0.5 percentage points off of China's growth and 0.1 percentage points off of growth in the U.S., the report said.

China and the United States earlier imposed 25 percent tariffs on $50 billion of each other's goods. Combined, the tariffs now cover nearly half the goods and services China sells America and nearly 60 percent of what the United States sells China.

The damage will be worse if Trump carries out threats to raise tariffs on virtually all products imported from China, said the ADB's chief economist, Yasuyuki Sawada.

But fast-growing Asia is quickly becoming such a large market that expanding trade within the region can help offset lost exports to the U.S., he said.

"Intraregional trade in Asia is as high as almost 50 percent of total t rade and this seems to be increasing over time," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "Asia used to be a global factory and everyone viewed Asian economies as suppliers, but if we look, more than half of the global middle class is living in Asia."

Also, even if Trump's tariffs strategy succeeds in reducing the U.S. trade deficit with China, the ADB report said, the deficit with Asia overall is unlikely to decline so much because other countries would likely be exporting more to make up the difference.

Efforts to forge regional free trade agreements are gaining momentum partly thanks to the U.S. moves, Sawada said.

"It's encouraging and very important to keep this momentum toward a more open trading system," he said.

Still, the ADB report said that prolonged trade conflict would damage confidence and deter investment, both regional and globally, especially if it expands to include autos and auto trade.

"Estimates of impacts do not fully capture possible disruption to production units as overseas business networks are severed and investment plans are cancelled amid a reallocation of global production," it said.

NTSB faults Air Canada pilots for last year's near disaster

Federal safety officials blame two Air Canada pilots for coming within 10 to 20 feet of crashing their jetliner into a plane on the ground last year in San Francisco.

The Air Canada pilots were apparently confused because one of two parallel runways was closed and dark before the late-night incident. The crew was seconds from landing their Airbus A320 jet on a taxiway where other planes loaded with passengers were waiting to take off.

"We could not have gotten literally or figuratively any closer to having a major disaster," said the safety board's vice chairman, Bruce Landsberg, during a hearing Tuesday in Washington.

Underscoring the severity of the incident, the NTSB's top aviation-safety staffer, John DeLisi, said it was the first time the board considered a major investigation for an event in which there were no injuries or damaged planes.

The board said the Air Canada crew mistook the taxiway for a runway because they didn't adequately review a warning to all pilots about one of the runways being closed for construction. The board cited other mistakes and crew fatigue as contributing factors.

Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick said the airline would review the safety board's recommendations and has already taken steps to improve training and procedures.

The two pilots "are being held out of service," he said.

The safety board recommended the development of technology to warn pilots and air traffic controllers when a landing plane appears to be aimed at a taxiway instead of a runway. It also said the Federal Aviation Administration should consider better lighting and markings to warn pilots about closed runways.

The cockpit voice recorder might have helped investigators better understand how the near-accident unfolded. However, the recording was taped over because the NTSB wasn't notified of the incident for nearly two days.

"When we learned of a passenger airliner almost touching down on a taxiway occupied by four other airliners, we elected to launch a full investigation," DeLisi said.

The July 2017 incident occurred just before midnight—it felt like 3 a.m. to the pilots, who had taken off from Toronto. The safety board recommended that Canada strengthen rules to prevent pilot fatigue.

The safety board's chairman, Robert Sumwalt, urged the FAA and Canadian officials to adopt the recommendations "so that we do not have to relearn the lessons of this incident at a far greater cost."

The Air Canada crew was cleared to land on 28R, to the right of the closed runway, 28L . According to a preliminary NTSB report , the pilots thought the lighted runway was 28L—not theirs. Despite visual cues such as different lighting on taxiways, they aimed their jet to land to the right of 28R, on a parallel taxiway where the other planes were waiting to take off.

According to the NTSB, the pilots told investigators that they didn't see planes on the taxiway, but that something did not look right.

Nation

Flooding from Florence slowly enveloping S. Carolina homes

GEORGETOWN, S.C. (AP)—A week ago, firefighters in Conway went to a neighborhood and told surprised residents their houses would flood from Hurricane Florence even though they had never had water in them before.

On Monday and Tuesday, those same firefighters checked on those same neighborhoods with maps that detailed each of the nearly 1,000 homes that could expect to be inundated.

"It's kind of playing out exactly like we forecast," Conway Fire Chief Le Hendrick said.

Twelve days after the once-fierce hurricane arrived on the coast, and more than a week after it blew north and dissipated, rivers swollen by its relentless rains are still flooding homes and businesses in their paths as they make their way to the sea.

The slow-moving disaster has allowed forecasters to pinpoint exactly who will flood. There have been few rescues or surprises in South Carolina — just black, reeking water slowly seeping in and even more slowly receding.

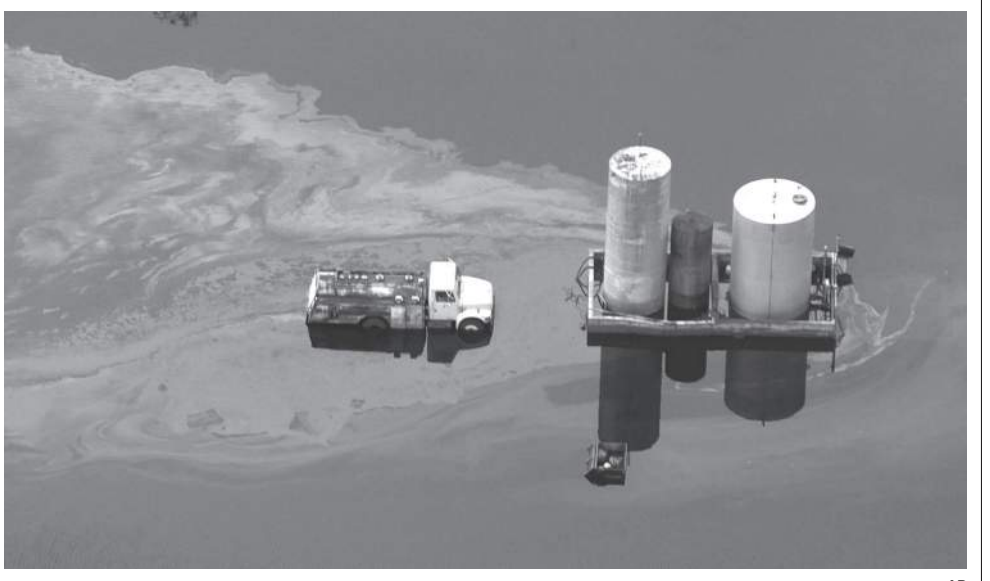
"You find yourself sitting around a lot and thinking, 'What if,' or, 'I wonder what things are like right now,'" said Vivian Chestnut, who left her home in Conway a week ago and might not get back until well into October. "And wondering what you are going to find when you finally get back."

The Waccamaw River, which flows through the city of 23,000, was expected to crest on Wednesday at 21.7 feet (6.6 meters). It surpassed the previous record high of 17.9 feet (5.5 meters) set in 2016 by Hurricane Matthew on Friday.

The waterway was not expected to drop below 18 feet (5.5 meters) or so until sometime next week. The river floods at 11 feet (3.4 meters).

All that water is making its way to Georgetown, where five different rivers reach the sea. Officials there said the worst of the flooding would start Wednesday and last until Thursday, likely leaving only one highway into the city.

And if that weren't bad enough, more weather was forming off the coast in a hurricane season that still has two months to go. National Hurricane Center forecasters watching a low pressure area about 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, said it could become a tropical depression as it approaches the coast before moving quickly to the north.



AP

In this Monday, Sept. 24, 2018 photo, flood waters from the Neuse River cover the area in Kinston, N.C. a week after Hurricane Florence.

ACROSS THE NATION

US judge repeats Trump vulgarity during immigration hearing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. judge Tuesday repeated President Donald Trump's vulgar description of African countries while questioning his administration's motives for ending a program that lets immigrants from four countries live and work legally in the U.S. Judge Edward Chen during a hearing in a lawsuit seeking to reinstate the program also cited a memo that he said suggested the decision to end it was driven by the administration's America First policy. He asked an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice to respond to allegations by plaintiffs that America First meant excluding immigrants who are not white. Chen is deciding whether to issue a preliminary injunction blocking the administration's decision to end temporary protected status for people from Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti and El Salvador. He did not give any indication of when he would rule. The status is granted to countries ravaged by natural disasters or war. It lets citizens of those countries remain in the U.S. until the situation improves back home.

Texas mom pleads guilty in deaths of 2 kids inside hot car

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP)—A 20-year-old Texas mother whose two toddlers died after they were left for hours inside a hot vehicle has pleaded guilty. The Kerrville Daily Times reports Amanda Kristene Hawkins pleaded guilty Monday in Kerrville to two counts each of child abandonment child endangerment and injury to a child in the June 2017 deaths of her two daughters. Hawkins could receive up to 20 years in prison for each count when she's sentenced Dec. 12. Investigators believe Hawkins intentionally left 1-year-old Brynn Hawkins and 2-year-old Addyson Overgard-Eddy in her vehicle through the night and into the following day while she visited friends. Temperatures reached the 80s while the girls were in the car. Kerrville is 65 miles (105 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio.

Asia

ARRESTED SENATOR AND DUTERTE CRITIC:

'Democracy lost today'

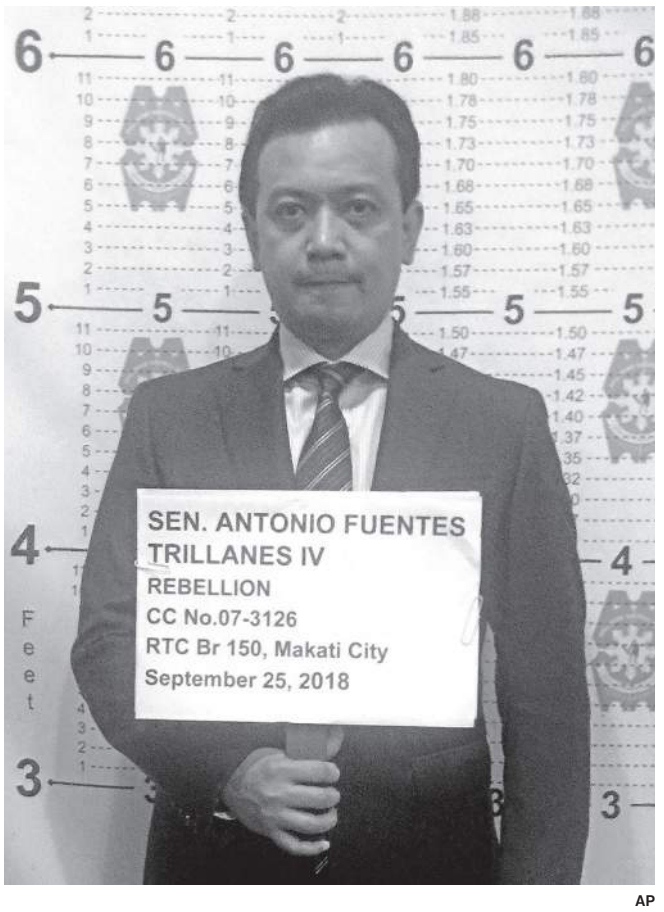
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte's fiercest critic in Congress was arrested Tuesday after the president revoked his 2011 amnesty for a failed coup attempt and revived rebellion charges against him in an unprecedented legal move the senator called a blow to democracy.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV walked out of the Senate, where he had taken refuge for weeks, and was moved by police to their headquarters in Makati city, where his fingerprints and mugshot were taken. After being booked by police, Trillanes was escorted to a nearby court and posted bail, trailed by many journalists.

"Democracy lost today," Trillanes told reporters shortly before his arrest. "Darkness and evil prevailed in our country. Whatever happens in the future will be in the hands of the Filipino people."

Known for outbursts against his critics, Duterte has long expressed anger against Trillanes, who has accused him of large-scale corruption, involvement in illegal drugs and extrajudicial killings in an anti-drug crackdown that has left thousands of suspects dead since he took office in 2016. Duterte has denied the allegations.

Trillanes, a former navy officer, was jailed for more than seven years for involvement in at least three army uprisings, including a 2003 mutiny against then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo when he and other young officers rigged part of a road in the Makati financial district with bombs and took over an upscale residential building.



AP

In this photo provided by the Philippine National Police Makati, Philippine opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for his mugshot inside a police station in Makati, metropolitan Manila after the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 issued an order for his arrest Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

After being amnestied under Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, Trillanes successfully petitioned two Philippine courts to dismiss rebellion and coup cases, allowing him to later run for public office.

Duterte said he voided Trillanes' amnesty last month because the senator had failed to file a formal amnesty request and acknowledge guilt. Trillanes has strongly denied the president's claims and has provided news reports and defense department documents to counter Duterte's claims.

SKorean president: Kim is serious about giving up his bombs

NEW YORK (AP)—South Korean President Moon Jae-in pushed back Tuesday against widespread skepticism about the sincerity of Kim Jong Un's vows to give up his nuclear bombs, saying that the current round of diplomacy with North Korea is "completely different" than the many failed deals that have frustrated past negotiators.

Moon, fresh off a dramatic summit in Pyongyang last week with Kim that saw more promises from the North Korean leader to dismantle his weapons programs, is at the U.N. General Assembly this week, meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump and other world leaders to explain and, to some extent, defend his efforts to bring peace to the famously hostile Korean Peninsula.

He told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York that it was "only natural that we have plenty of suspicions regarding the true motivations" of Kim. It was, after all, only last year that a series of increasingly powerful North Korean weapons tests, including the nation's sixth nuclear test explosion, and the tough reaction by Trump had many worrying about war. Some critics believe that tough sanctions and pressure, rather than engagement and concessions, stand a better chance of ridding the North of its nukes.

"It's completely different this time around," Moon said, speaking through an interpreter. What's changed this time is that, unlike past efforts that collapsed when the countries tried to implement deals that had been made at the working level, this one has Trump and Kim making the decisions and then driving their lieutenants to follow through.

"This was a promise made in front of the whole world" by Trump and Kim, Moon said. "For this reason, I believe the promise will be kept."

Moon says North Korea will eventually give up its nuclear weapons in return for security guarantees from the United States, which the North has always claimed is intent on destroying the ruling Kim family's grip on power. Pyongyang also wants an end to what it calls U.S. hostility and normalized ties between Washington and Pyongyang.

Kim claims that since he has completed his nuclear arsenal, an assertion that analysts say is probably not yet true, he will now turn to boosting the conditions of his impoverished people. Skeptics say that North Korea wants to engage in long-running disarmament talks so it can offer up a series of small gestures in return for a stream of aid and concessions from outsiders.

World

Pope: Priestly abuse scandals driving Catholic faithful away

TALLINN, Estonia (AP)—Pope Francis conceded Tuesday that priestly sex abuse scandals are outraging the Catholic faithful and driving them away, and said the church must change its ways if it wants to keep future generations.

Francis referred directly to the crisis convulsing his papacy on the fourth and final day of his Baltic pilgrimage, which coincided with the release of a devastating new report into decades of sex abuse and cover-ups in Germany.

Francis told young people in Estonia, considered one of the least religious countries in the world, that he knew many felt the church had nothing to offer them and simply doesn't understand the problems of young adults today.

"They are outraged by sexual and economic scandals that do not meet with clear condemnation, by our unpreparedness to really appreciate the lives and sensibilities of the young, and simply by the passive role we assign them," he told Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox young people in the Kaarli Lutheran Church in the Estonian capital of Tallinn.

The pope said the Catholic Church wants to respond to those complaints transparently and honestly.

"We ourselves need to be converted," he said. "We have to realize that, in order to stand by your side, we need to change many situations that, in the end, put you off."

It was a very public admission of the impact of the church's failures in confronting sex abuse scandals, which have roared back to the headlines recently with revelations of abuses and cover-ups in the U.S., Chilean and now German churches.

On Tuesday, the German bishops conference released a report which found that some 3,677 people—more than half of them 13 or younger and nearly a third of them altar boys—were abused by clergy between 1946 and 2014.

The report, compiled by university researchers, found evidence that some files were manipulated or destroyed, many cases were not brought to justice and that sometimes abusers were simply moved to other dioceses without congregations being informed about their past.

The abuse scandal, which erupted in Ireland in the 1990s and subsequently in Australia and the U.S., now threatens Francis' own papacy since his record as cardinal and pope has proven uneven. A former Vatican ambassador has also accused Francis of rehabilitating an American cardinal who slept with seminarians.

Francis has declined to respond to the accusations, and on Tuesday didn't allow a reporter to finish asking a question about them during his in-flight news conference coming home from Tallinn. The Vatican is expected to respond formally soon.

Francis did, however, suggest that it was unfair to apply contemporary moral standards on the church's past cover-up since everyone did it at the time.

"You also covered them up at home: When the uncle raped the niece, when the father raped his children. It was covered because it was so shameful," he said.

He said he wasn't excusing the church's cover-up, which he said was evidence of the "corruption" that has so scandalized the faithful. But he said the church has made great strides in fighting abuse.

And Francis said it's unfair to judge the cover-up with today's standards in the same way it's unfair to judge the forced conversion of indigenous peoples during the colonial era or even the use of the death penalty, which the pope has recently decreed cannot be condoned under any circumstance.

Francis' visit to Tallinn marked the last stop in a four-day pilgrimage that also took him to Lithuania and Latvia. The trip aimed to encourage the Christian faith in the Baltics, which saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism, as well as the World War II-era occupation by Nazi Germany.

Francis was warmly welcomed in the region, even if Catholics are only a majority in Lithuania. Estonia only has 6,000 Catholics nationwide, but residents still seemed to welcome Francis' inclusive message.

World leaders laugh as Trump boasts of his achievements

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Donald Trump got some laughter when he addressed world leaders on Tuesday. It wasn't intentional.

The president was highlighting U.S. gains under his watch as he opened his address to the U.N. General Assembly. He said the American economy was "booming like never before" and that his administration has accomplished more in less than two years than almost any other administration.

His boast elicited laughter from the scores of heads of state and delegates in the audience for the speech.

Trump, who has long claimed that his predecessors' weak leadership prompted other nations "to laugh" at the US. appeared flustered and responded, "I didn't expect that reaction, but that's OK."

Later, as he was leaving the U.N., he told reporters that he had meant to be funny.

"Oh it was great, well, that was meant to get some laughter, so it was great," he said.

In his speech, Trump said the U.S. is a "stronger, safer and richer country" than when he took office in January 2017. He said "we are standing up for America and for the American people, and we are also standing up for the world."

A little further into his speech, German diplomats appeared bemused by Trump's latest swipe at their country as he reiterated his criticism of Germany's planned undersea gas pipeline from Russia.

After the president's warning that "Germany will become totally dependent on Russian energy if it does not immediately change course," cameras showed German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas gently shaking his head, while senior diplomats smiled.

Some in the audience also grumbled during Trump's remarks when he said "we reject the ideology" of globalism. When Trump criticized socialism, a member of the Swedish delegation frowned with disapproval.

Focus

AP

In this July 12, 2018, photo, children work on a digital program at Coby Preschool in Yoshikawa, suburban Tokyo, on an assignment, which was to draw on a triangle on an iPad. For the kids, it's all about having fun. Japanese preschool programs equipped with tablet computers aim to prepare kids for the digital age.

JAPAN

preschools using tablets to prep tots for digital age

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

YOSHIKAWA, Japan (AP)—It's drawing time at this suburban nursery school in Japan, but instead of crayons, tiny fingers are tapping on colors on iPad screens and taking selfies. Digital schooling has arrived in this nation long known for its zealous commitment to "three R's" education.

Coby Preschool, in a small town northeast of Tokyo, is among nearly 400 kindergartens and nursery schools in Japan that are using smartphone software applications designed especially for preschoolers called KitS.

That's only about 1 percent of this nation's kindergartens and nursery schools. But it's a start. Coby is helping lead a national initiative in "digital play."

Parents everywhere worry their children might fall behind, and Japan is no exception.

The government has recently made strengthening technology education national policy even as it struggles to meet its goal of supplying one digital device—computer or tablet—for every three children.

DIGITAL PLAY

With KitS, developed by Tokyo-based startup SmartEducation, children color birds and flowers that appear to come alive as three-dimensional computer graphics. Children also draw various creatures that, when captured as computer images, swim or float around in virtual landscapes.

In a recent session, children got a triangle image on their iPads and were asked to draw on it with digital colors, store that image, and draw another one to create a two-screen story.

The usually shy children burst into an uproar, brainstorming happily about what the triangle might represent: a sandwich, a rice ball, a dolphin, a roof, a mountain.

The children were then encouraged to come to the front of the class and explain what they had drawn as the images were shown on a large screen.

"There is no right or wrong answer," said Akihito Minabe, the preschool principal leading the session.

The point is to nurture creativity, focus and leadership skills.

"They think on their own, they learn it's OK to think freely, and it's fun to come up with ideas," said Minabe.

In the U.S., 98 percent of children age 8 and under have a mobile device in their homes, while 43 percent have their own tablet, according to The Genius of Play, a U.S. program that researches education and play.

That's similar to Japan, where each adult has an average of more than one smartphone and about half of preschoolers have access to a mobile device, according to Japanese government data.

In many U.S., Asian and European preschools and elementary schools, teachers use technology to present stories, music and other information. Educators are also studying children's social development through how they learn to share digital devices.

GETTING SMARTER?

Much of what's driving the adoption of tablets in U.S. preschools is a belief, founded or not, that an early start will make kids smarter at technology, said Patricia Cantor, a professor of early childhood education at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

However, early research into how tablets and apps affect learning for kids ages 2 to 5 is inconclusive.

"Touchscreen stuff is pretty intuitive. They don't need training," Cantor said.

Some studies show positive outcomes among young children using mobile devices to improve their literacy, science or math skills, but there's little research comparing tablet-assisted learning to more conventional teaching approaches, according to a review of 19 studies by Christothea Herodotou, a lecturer at The Open University in the United Kingdom.

Herodotou said it's unclear which features might help or hinder learning. Devices and apps can also be misused—for instance, to keep children occupied so teachers can do other things.

"Even if it's designed to encourage learning or exploration or curiosity, it may not be used in that way," said Cantor. "There's so much junk out there."

Still, the target age for "digital play" is getting ever younger.

Experts have known for years that playing is how children learn, says Ken Seiter, Executive Vice President at The Toy Association, a nonprofit, which represents businesses that design, produce, license and deliver youth-entertainment products.

Toys can teach toddlers simple programming or use augmented reality to bring story characters digitally alive, said Seiter, whose organization spearheads The Genius of Play, a U.S.-based program that researches education and play.

JAPAN'S TAKE

Japan's classrooms tend to be more structured than in the West, with students often acting in unison as they line up, bow and chant together. Children tend to be passive, and the emphasis is on the group rather than individuals. Youngsters, even some preschoolers, attend extracurricular cram schools.

KitS' designers have sought to make activities fun. One aim appears to be nurturing outspokenness.

Yuhei Yamauchi, a professor of information studies at the University of Tokyo and KitS adviser, sees practical benefits.

By the time today's 5-year-olds start work, most jobs will require computer skills. Given Japan's shrinking population, people may work into their 80s, shifting jobs several times. Digital skills are more critical than ever, he said.

Digital tools deliver the equivalents of libraries and museums at a child's fingertips, said Ron Shumsky, a child psychologist who works in Japan. That can be addictive, he cautions, and students must be taught safe and responsible "Digital citizenship," he said.

It's so compelling it pulls you in," he said. "It keeps you wanting more."

Experts warn that staring for too long at screens can damage eyesight and deter creative thinking. It's a complex problem, since children may see their parents immersed in devices themselves.

KitS limits each session on the iPad to 15 minutes. Classes are held just 30 times a year.

FAMILY DIALOGUE

At the preschool in Yoshikawa, a sleepy Tokyo bed town ringed by lush rice paddies, the children have mastered time-lapse photography using their iPads.

Japanese preschools like Coby are subsidized by local governments. Fees, including meals, are on a sliding scale based on income with the poorest families paying nothing.

Each preschool pays SmartEducation an initial 500,000 yen ($4,400), not including the cost of the iPads, and 30,000 yen ($265) more a month for maintenance. The cost for training teachers is included.

Students use the iPad message function to send their parents photos of themselves in action and share trailers of their upcoming performances.

The kids are keen to talk about it, and parents say the endeavor encourages communication beyond the usual daily stream of commands: Eat dinner, take a bath, go to bed.

"I realized I tend not to wait for what the children have to say," said hospital worker Masami Uno, whose son, 5-year-old Ayumu, and 2-year-old daughter attend Coby. "It made me stop and think about that."

The kids AP spoke with favored the usual sorts of career goals, saying they wanted to be ballerinas and soccer players. None said they wanted to be a computer programmer when they grow up.

But they like the KitS.

"It's fun," said Yume Miyasaka, 6.

She noted with a little pride that her father uses an iPad for work. But, referring to her iPad creation, she said, "He usually doesn't draw shaved ice."

Environment

AP

An elephant is seen in the Gonarezhou National Park, southeast Zimbabwe, on Sept. 2, 2015. The U.S. is opening the door to allowing elephant hunters to bring tusks and other animal parties into the country as trophies.

Who's killing Africa's elephants?

Study identifies ivory trafficking cartels

By SANDI DOUGHTON
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—The international trade in illegal ivory is a $4 billion business, but the criminal organizations responsible are good at covering their tracks. They conceal elephant tusks in shipments of fish parts, falsify records and smuggle their contraband through multiple countries to obscure its origin.

Now, a team of researchers at the University of Washington has found a new way to trip up the crime networks that funnel ivory to buyers around the world. By leveraging the power of DNA analysis, they were able to link multiple ivory shipments to a small number of criminal cartels operating out of ports in Africa.

The approach could provide the legal ammunition needed to go after cartel leaders, some of whom have received light sentences or been acquitted because of weak evidence, said Samuel Wasser, lead author of the study published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

"Most of these big criminals, when they're finally taken down it's for financial crimes," said Wasser, director of the UW Center for Conservation Biology. "When you're following the money, you need to know the connections between all of these seizures, and that's one of the real powers of this method we have developed."

The new work builds on more than a decade of research by the UW team, which first analyzed thousands of elephant dung samples from across Africa to document genetic diversity and distinguish different elephant populations. They then applied those results to DNA analysis of seized ivory, discovering that most of the elephants being killed by poachers came from two hotspots, one in the eastern African nation of Tanzania and another centered in the West African nation of Gabon.

While sorting through 38 large shipments of ivory seized by law enforcement between 2011 and 2015, Wasser and his colleagues also developed ways to identify pairs of tusks based on diameter; color; and the location of the gum line, where the elephant's lip rested on the tusk. They were surprised to find more than half the tusks were orphans, missing their mates.

"It was driving me crazy," Wasser said. "There were so many unpaired tusks."

So he and his colleagues decided to re-examine all their ivory DNA results to see if they could track down the missing tusks. "All of a sudden the pattern was just there," he said. "It was just amazing."

They were able to match 26 pairs of tusks that had been separated after poaching, then shipped in different consignments to different destinations, but out of the same ports and within months of each other.

The links between shipments mean the same criminal rings must have been involved. And the fact that the ivory in the shipments had similar geographic origins implies that the criminal rings are probably working directly with poachers in specific areas, perhaps even supplying them with ammunition and other gear, Wasser said.

"It costs about $25 for a single bullet to kill an elephant," he said. "The poachers can't afford that."

By examining the origin of the ivory, the separated pairs of tusks and the ports where the ivory was shipped, Wasser and his colleagues zeroed in on three main commercial networks, representing what they believe to be three major smuggling cartels. The cartels operate out of Mombasa, Kenya; Entebbe, Uganda; and Lome, Togo – and also appear to collaborate on occasion.

With an estimated 40,000 elephants killed by poachers every year, there's an urgent need for more effective law enforcement, said John Brown, a wildlife agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, who has worked with Wasser and several African nations.

"The connection between multiple seizures gives us a lot more evidence to look at and data to mine as far as the financial connections and financial transactions that took place to facilitate these illegal shipments," Brown said.

While several African countries have stepped up wildlife enforcement in recent years, there have also been high-profile disappointments. A major ivory trafficker in the country of Togo was convicted, partly due to Wasser's DNA evidence, but sentenced to only two years in prison. A Kenyan judge recently overturned the 20-year sentence of Feisal Mohamed Ali, believed to be a kingpin in the ivory trade, after police investigators were accused of extortion and much of the evidence in the case disappeared – including seized ivory and vehicles allegedly used for shipments. However, the judge intends to reopen the case against Ali and his confederates.

The new UW analysis includes ivory seizures linked to Ali, and Wasser is optimistic that evidence will be part of the new prosecution.

"We've essentially provided a roadmap to follow the money," he said. "This is going to be a tool that is going to plague these traffickers for a long time."

Second rhino pregnancy signals hope for nearly extinct subspecies

By BRADLEY J. FIKES
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

SAN DIEGO—A second rhino has become pregnant this year through artificial insemination at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The pregnancy of 10-year-old Amani marks another milestone for an ambitious program to rescue a rhino subspecies with stem cells.

Amani and five other southern white rhinos are being trained to become surrogate mothers of northern white rhinos, which are critically endangered. The pregnancies of Amani, announced on Tuesday, and Victoria announced in May, are dry runs for the goal of implanting northern white rhino embryos.

Just two northern white rhinos are left in the world, both female and too old to reproduce. This means the subspecies is functionally extinct.

Nola, a northern white rhino at the Safari Park, died in 2015. She was then one of only four left. Sudan, the last male, died in March at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

So if the northern white rhino is to have any future, it will come from human intervention.

The embryos are to be created from cryogenically preserved northern white rhino cells. These are stored at the Frozen Zoo, a project of San Diego Zoo Global, the Zoo's conservation arm. It was established in the 1970s by the late Kurt Benirschke, who foresaw that these cells might one day be turned into complete animals.

The process is complicated. The frozen cells will be thawed and be converted into stem cells. The stem cells will be turned into germ cells — sperm and egg cells. After fertilization creates the embryos, researchers will implant them into the surrogate mothers.

If fortune smiles, these pregnancies will be carried to term, and the northern white rhino will have a new lease on life.

The project is being performed by a team including Jeanne Loring, a stem cell scientist at Scripps Research. The Frozen Zoo has 12 samples, nine of which have been thawed and "reprogrammed" into lines of stem cells. Five of those nine lines have been well studied, and are the subject of a recently submitted paper, she said.

While it's unclear if the three remaining samples can be of use, the nine lines already recovered provide sufficient genetic diversity to generate a viable population, Loring said.

There are early signs of germ cell development, Loring said. Stem cells were allowed to spontaneously differentiate into adult cells of various types. Some of them became "primordial germ cells," precursors of sperm and egg cells.

"But a lot of the work is ahead of us," Loring said. "We need to purify those cells out of the rest and improve the methods for generating more of them."

In the meantime, the southern white rhino females are being acclimated to this unusual way of becoming moms. They have been carefully and patiently trained with positive reinforcement to voluntarily accept highly intimate medical exams from keepers. This is done to minimize stress, which could endanger the pregnancy.

The hope is that several years in the future, the southern white rhino females will receive a northern white rhino embryo and notice no difference from their usual routine.

It's too early to tell if Amani and Victoria will carry their babies to term. Southern white rhino pregnancies typically last 16 to 18 months.

And as for the birth of new northern white rhinos, Loring says she's optimistic, but it may take a while.

"I'm hoping it happens in my lifetime," Loring said. "I can't really tell you how long it's going to be. There's a lot of work to be done, but it just seems really feasible to me. We can see the path."

Life & Style

Cosby in cuffs:

TV star gets 3 to 10 years for sex assault

Bill Cosby is escorted out of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility, Tuesday Sept. 25, 2018, in Eagleville, Pa., following his sentencing to three-to-10-year prison sentence for sexual assault. AP

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—At an age when other Hollywood stars are settling into retirement and collecting lifetime-achievement awards, an 81-year-old Bill Cosby was led away to prison in handcuffs Tuesday, sentenced to three to 10 years behind bars in what was seen by many of his accusers as a reckoning richly deserved and long overdue.

The comedian, TV star and breaker of racial barriers became the first celebrity of the #MeToo era to be sent to prison. He was found guilty in April of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his gated estate in 2004 after being barraged with similar accusations from more than 60 women over the past five decades.

"It is time for justice. Mr. Cosby, this has all circled back to you. The time has come," Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill said. He quoted from victim Andrea Constand's statement to the court, in which she said Cosby took her "beautiful, young spirit and crushed it."

Cosby declined the opportunity to speak before the sentence came down, and afterward sat laughing and chatting with his defense team. His wife of 54 years, Camille, was not in court. Constand smiled broadly on hearing the punishment and was hugged by others in the courtroom.

In a blistering statement, Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt said the comic was subjected to the "most racist and sexist trial in the history of the United States." Wyatt said all three of the psychologists who testified against Cosby were "white women who make money off of accusing black men of being sexual predators."

Cosby's lawyers asked that he be allowed to remain free on bail while he appeals his conviction, but the judge appeared incredulous over the request and ordered him locked up immediately, saying that "he could quite possibly be a danger to the community."

The comedian—who is legally blind and uses a cane—removed his watch, tie and jacket and walked out in a white dress shirt and red suspenders, his hands cuffed in front of him. He appeared downcast, his eyes failing to meet the camera, in a mug shot released by authorities.

Cosby must serve the minimum of three years before becoming eligible for parole.

"For decades, the defendant has been able to hide his true self and hide his crimes using his fame and fortune. He's hidden behind a character he created, Dr. Cliff Huxtable," Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said at a news conference, referring to Cosby's best-known role. But "now, finally, Bill Cosby has been unmasked, and we have seen the real man as he is headed off to prison."

Constand stood at Steele's side but shook her head to say she had no comment.

Former model Janice Dickinson, who accused Cosby of violating her, looked at him in the courtroom and said: "Who gets the last laugh, pal?"

Another accuser in the courtroom, Lili Bernard, said: "There is solace, absolutely. It is his fame and his fortune and his phony philanthropy that has allowed him to get away with impunity. Maybe this will send a message to other powerful perpetrators that they will be caught and punished."

Cosby's punishment, which also included a $25,000 fine, came at the end of a two-day hearing at which the judge declared him a "sexually violent predator"—a modern-day scarlet letter that subjects him to monthly counseling for the rest of his life and requires that neighbors and schools be notified of his whereabouts. A psychologist for the state testified that Cosby appears to have a mental disorder characterized by an uncontrollable urge to have sex with women without their consent.

The comic once known as America's Dad for his role on the top-rated "Cosby Show" in the 1980s was convicted in April of violating Constand, Temple University women's basketball administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. It was the first celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

Constand testified that Cosby gave her what she thought were herbal pills to ease stress, then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay immobilized on a couch. Cosby claimed the encounter was consensual, and his lawyers branded her a "con artist" who framed the comedian to get a big payday—a $3.4 million settlement she received over a decade ago.

Five other accusers took the stand at the trial as part of an effort by prosecutors to portray him as a predator.

QUOTES, REACTIONS

"Bill Cosby took my beautiful, healthy young spirit and crushed it. He robbed me of my health and vitality, my open nature, and my trust in myself and others. ...We may never know the full extent of his double life as a sexual predator but his decades-long reign of terror as a serial rapist is over."

—Andrea Constand, in her victim impact statement.

"Who gets the last laugh, pal?"**—Former model Janice Dickinson** as she looked toward Cosby in the courthouse. She told jurors in April he gave her a pill he claimed would ease her menstrual cramps but instead left her immobilized and unable to stop an assault she called "gross."

"No one is above the law. And no one should be treated disproportionately because of who they are, where they live, or even their wealth, celebrity or philanthropy. ...I am not permitted to treat him any differently because of who he is, or who he was. ...It is time for justice. Mr. Cosby, this has all circled back to you. The time has come."

— Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill.

"I believe it is important to point out that this has been the most racist and sexist trial in the history of the United States. ...You know what this country has done to black men for centuries."

—Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt.

"We have now learned and will prove that Bill Cosby was denied his right to a fair trial because the DA of Montgomery County, Kevin Steele, used falsified evidence against him."

—Cosby's wife, Camille. Steele rejected the allegation.

"For decades, the defendant has been able to hide his true self and hide his crimes using his fame and fortune. He's hidden behind a character created, Dr. Cliff Huxtable. ...He used his acting skills and an endearing TV personality to win over his victims and then keep them silent. Finally, Bill Cosby has been unmasked and we have seen the real man as he is headed off to prison."

—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele.

"This has been a long journey to justice for all of the accusers. ...We're glad that judgment day has finally come for Mr. Cosby."

—Celebrity attorney Gloria Allred, who represented some of his accusers.

"There is solace, absolutely. It is his fame and his fortune and his phony philanthropy that has allowed him to get away with impunity. Maybe this will send a message to other powerful perpetrators that they will be caught and punished."

—Lili Bernard, who said Cosby sexually assaulted her before giving her a one-time role on "The Cosby Show" in 1992.

"I did think that I didn't care if he went to prison or hell, but I did care. ...It's hard to describe. I can't say euphoria, it wasn't happiness, but a tremendous relief that justice was served."

—Cindra Ladd, a model-turned-Hollywood executive who says Cosby gave her a pill that incapacitated her and then raped her in 1969.

"He did not care how old I was. I was young and innocent and only 17 years old. ...Why should he receive mercy just because he is 81 years old?" **Chelan Lasha,** who says Cosby assaulted her after giving her a pill in 1986.

"Today a PA court deemed #BillCosby a Violent Sexual Predator b4 sentencing him. For decades people maligned &decried his accusers as LIARS. It took 60+ accusers 2 finally bring his survivors justice & vindication."

—Debra Messing, via Twitter.

"What happens when we hold people accountable for their abuses of power."

—Alyssa Milano, who posted video on Twitter of Cosby being led away in handcuffs.

"The stars only commemorate the recipient's professional accomplishments. It is regrettable when the personal lives of inductees do not measure up to public standards and expectations; however, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce does not remove stars from the Walk of Fame."

—Statement from Hollywood Walk of Fame on why Cosby's star will remain.

"The women who shared their stories in the Cosby trial and sentencing showed admirable courage and strength. ...Let's hope that the legacy of this case is that victims feel empowered to come forward, knowing that it can truly make a difference in bringing perpetrators to justice."

—Jodi Omear, vice president of communications at the anti-sexual violence organization RAINN.

"Bill Cosby seeing the inside of a prison cell sends a strong message that predators - no matter who they are, from Hollywood to Wall Street to the Supreme Court - can no longer be protected at the expense of victims."

—Sonia Ossorio, president of NOW-NY.

"The successful criminal prosecution of Bill Cosby will have an immeasurable positive impact on countless generations to come."

—Mitchell Garabedian, a Boston lawyer who has represented many hundreds of clergy sex abuse victims since the 1990s. ***(AP)***

Will Smith marks 50th birthday with a leap near Grand Canyon

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, Ariz. (AP)—Like a scene out of a high-octane action movie that he would star in, Will Smith celebrated his 50th birthday Tuesday by successfully bungee jumping from a helicopter near the Grand Canyon.

Cameras, which captured the stunt for a livestream on YouTube , showed the actor hooked to a harness and bungee cords dangling over a gorge in northeastern Arizona.

"This is some of the most beautiful stuff I've ever seen in my life," Smith said while still swinging over the chasm.

He described the experience as going "from pure terror to absolute bliss."

The entire event had the feel of a polished episode of reality TV. Camera crews showed Smith, wife Jada Pinkett Smith and his three children being greeted by dozens of relatives and friends on a platform. His "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" co-star, Alfonso Ribeiro, served as a host interviewing Smith and others before and after.

The stunt was billed as a leap "in the heart of the Grand Canyon." But the jump was outside Grand Canyon National Park on the Navajo Nation. The tribe's reservation borders the east rim of the national park.

Smith

A Navajo medicine man gave Smith a blessing and thanked him for coming to the reservation.

Smith said the bungee jump was a challenge from Yes Theory, a YouTube channel that makes videos of people doing activities outside of their comfort zone. But the event also raised money for charity through an online lottery for a chance to watch the jump in person. The proceeds will benefit access to education for children in struggling countries.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg biopic to open AFI Fest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Ruth Bader Ginsburg biopic "On the Basis of Sex" is having its world premiere at the 32nd AFI Fest in Los Angeles.

The American Film Institute says the film starring Felicity Jones as the Supreme Court Justice will open the festival at the TCL Chinese Theater on November 8.

Mimi Leder directed "On the Basis of Sex," which follows Ginsburg's early years as a young lawyer before her appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Leder was also a groundbreaker in her own field as one of the first women admitted to the AFI Conservatory.

"On the Basis of Sex" will open in theaters nationwide on December 25. It's the second high-profile film this year about Ginsburg, following the acclaimed documentary "RBG."

Bill overhauling songwriter royalties heads to Trump's desk

WASHINGTON (AP)—Legislation to substantially overhaul the way music is licensed and songwriters compensated for songs online is being sent to the president's desk for his signature.

Congress cleared the bill Tuesday, giving final passage to a rare bipartisan accord between Republican and Democratic lawmakers. It enjoyed wide support in both the House and Senate, and within the music industry.

President Donald Trump is expected to sign it into law.

The Orrin B. Hatch Music Modernization Act, named after the retiring Utah senator, who is also a musician, creates a new independent entity that will license songs to companies that play music online.

The nonprofit collective will then pay songwriters, including those who wrote pre-1970s classics before music copyrights protected their work.

Tennessee Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander championed the bill.

Jesse Jackson Jr.'s mother is releasing book of letters

NEW YORK (AP)—The mother of former Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. is working on a book of letters she sent him while he was in prison.

Skyhorse Publishing announced Tuesday Jacqueline L. Jackson's "Loving You, Thinking of You, Don't Forget to Pray: Letters to My Son in Prison." The book includes an introduction by Jesse Jackson Jr., the son of the civil rights activist and former presidential candidate. The younger Jackson served a 30-month term, which ended in 2015, for filing false tax returns. He was an eight-term congressman from Illinois, and resigned in 2012, the year before he was sent to prison.

According to Skyhorse, the letters are "frank, anecdotal, infused with faith, and sometimes humorous," touching upon family life and current events.

In 'Free Solo,' a steeper challenge for Honnold than El Cap

TORONTO (AP)—The important thing to rock climber Alex Honnold is that the movie screen be big. IMAX, whatever. But big.

It's shortly before the Toronto International Film Festival premiere of "Free Solo," the documentary that chronicles Honnold's legendary, ropeless ascent up Yosemite's El Capitan, a 3,000-foot wall of sheer granite and possibly the world's most fabled rock face. Honnold has just come from free soloing—climbing without safety gear—a 69-story luxury apartment building in Jersey City, New Jersey.

From a hotel window he scans the Toronto skyline but doesn't see anything much appealing. "It has to be inspiring aesthetically," he says.

Honnold, 33, is widely acknowledged as the greatest free-solo climber in the world. And in a sport that demands absolute perfection from its strivers —death is the only alternative—Honnold's feat on El Cap is his masterpiece. An almost unfathomable climbing achievement, the four-hour climb is still spoken of in hushed reverence. The New York Times called it "one of the greatest athletic feats of any kind, ever."

AP
In this Sept. 10, 2018 photo, climbers Alex Honnold, from left, and Sanni McCandless, subjects of the documentary film "Free Solo," pose with co-directors Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin at the InterContinental Hotel during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

But whether scaling El Cap was Honnold's greatest challenge, though, is an open question. Jimmy Chin and Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi's "Free Solo," in theaters Friday, not only chronicles Honnold's famed ascent, and the months of preparation and anguish leading up to it, but also an arguably steeper challenge for the 33-year-old Honnold: moving out of his van and maintaining a long-term relationship.

"Anybody, if you took two years of their life, you would see some growth, hopefully," Honnold says. "But it's easy to see growth when you're starting at zero."

After settling whether "Free Solo" would screen on IMAX (it wouldn't), Honnold was joined by Sanni McCandless, his girlfriend of several years. Just as Chin and Vasarhelyi, the filmmaking couple of the celebrated "Meru," were beginning their film three years ago, McCandless slipped Honnold her number at a book signing. The exceptionally dedicated but goofy and boyish Honnold (in the film, he sums up the fearsome specter of El Cap with the phase "I mean, dude") is at first almost comically inept at making room for someone else in his life.

Girlfriend's young kids are challenge for veteran dad

DEAR ABBY: I'm 41 with two adult kids and my youngest, who is almost 15. For the last eight months I have been dating a woman with two kids —one is nearly 10 and the other is 4. We have a lot in common. We get along great, and I really like her.

The downside is, I'm having a hard time accepting starting over and raising kids that young. I have been living alone with no kids full time for 11 years. She has a flexible schedule, and her kids spend 50 percent of the time with their dad. I know one day we will have to move in together, and I'm not sure I'm comfortable with it.

DREADING IT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR DREADING IT: I'm a strong believer in communication. If you are having second thoughts, share them with your lady friend so you can decide together what your next step should be and if there will be a move in your future. And when you do, please remember that her first responsibility is to her children and not to you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are celebrating our 45th wedding anniversary. Our trip will be a visit to his old Army buddy, an eight-hour drive away in Maine. I have met his friends three times in my life. He is comfortable with them. I can talk about only so much with them, then nothing more.

My husband says this is a fair trip because I always choose the destinations of most of our vacations. It will be a six-day trip, and we must take our chocolate lab with us. What do you think of this?

PERTURBED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PERTURBED: I think it seems less like an anniversary celebration than it does an Army reunion. However, if what your husband said is true—that you have chosen the destinations for most of your vacations—be a good sport and go along with it. Of course, it would be with the stipulation that the next destination is one of your choosing and will be the anniversary celebration you didn't have this time around.

DEAR ABBY: Is it OK for senior citizens to order off of the kids' menu? Friends of ours have recently begun to do this even though the menus state "6 and under, please." They are not poor and live a comfortable lifestyle. The waiter usually just looks the other way and allows them to do it. I find it embarrassing. I feel they are cheating the business and the server.

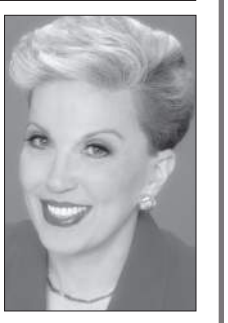
BY THE BOOK IN OHIO

DEAR BY THE BOOK: As people grow older, they burn fewer calories than younger, more active folks do. Their appetites sometimes shrink to accommodate it. Many senior couples compensate for it by splitting a meal so they won't waste food.

Not knowing your friends, I can't guess why they order off the children's menu. However, as long as the server doesn't mind and receives a generous enough tip to compensate, I don't think anyone is being cheated. Management wouldn't allow it if it hurt the business.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

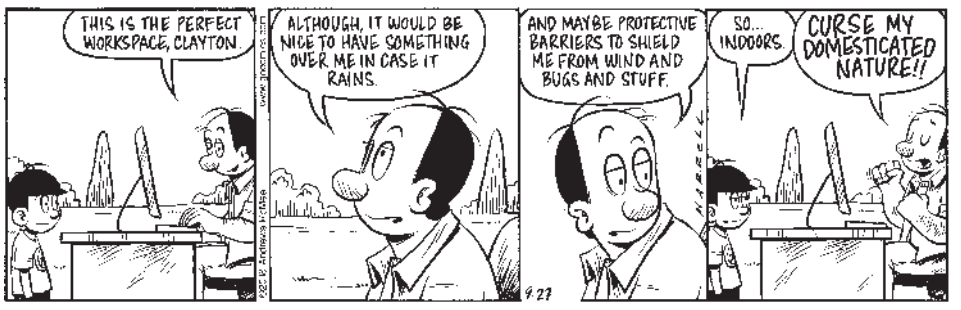
I GUESS WE SHOULD GO HOME TO EARTH.
YEAH, WE MAY NOT BE WELCOME HERE.
WE OUGHT TO FIX UP OUR OWN PLANET BEFORE WE GO MESSING AROUND WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PLANETS.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE EARTH, AND IT'S GOT TO LAST US A WHILE.
WE ALSO SHOULD GO HOME BECAUSE WE'RE CLEAN OUT OF TUNA.
I HOPE MOM AND DAD DIDN'T RENT OUT MY ROOM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

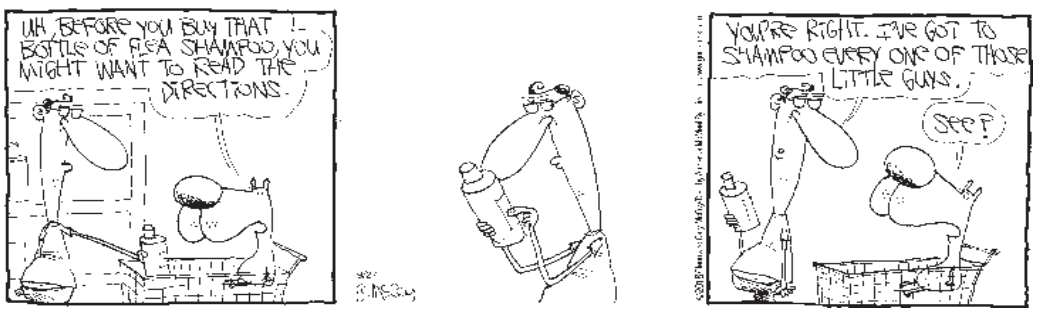
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS IS THE PERFECT WORKSPACE, CLAYTON.
ALTHOUGH, IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOMETHING OVER ME IN CASE IT RAINS.
AND MAYBE PROTECTIVE BARRIERS TO SHIELD ME FROM WIND AND BUGS AND STUFF.
SO... INDOORS.
CURSE MY DOMESTICATED NATURE!!
9-27

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


UH, BEFORE YOU BUY THAT BOTTLE OF FLEA SHAMPOO, YOU MIGHT WANT TO READ THE DIRECTIONS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE GOT TO SHAMPOO EVERY ONE OF THOSE LITTLE GUYS.
SEE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

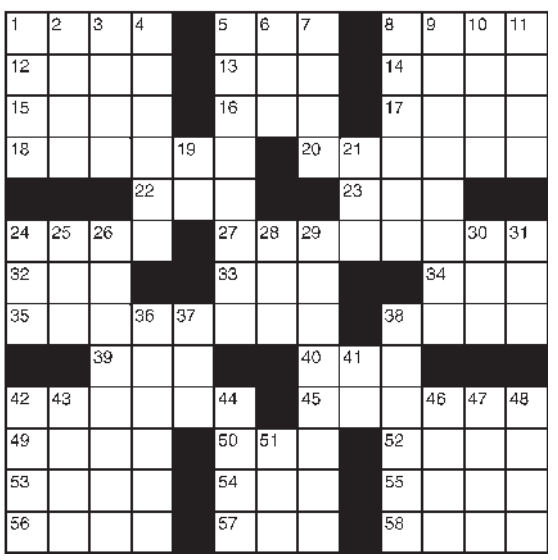
ACROSS
1 Splendor
5 Sound booster
8 Mount Rushmore's st.
12 Russian river
13 Happy hour venue
14 Jocular Johnson
15 Bistro handout
16 Tic-tac-toe loser
17 King of the jungle
18 "I, Robot" author
20 Sacred songs
22 Needle hole
23 950, in old Rome
24 Ointment amounts
27 Forbid
32 Swiss canton
33 Small batteries
34 Equal (Pref.)
35 Small movie roles
38 Director Preminger
39 Can material
40 Egos' counterparts
42 Drives too fast
45 Idiosyncrasy
49 Dealer's foe
50 Here, to Henri
52 Lopsided win
53 Capri, e.g.
54 Quilters' get-together
55 — uncertain terms
56 Playpen pile
57 Lay down the lawn
58 Actor Connery

DOWN
1 Cougar
2 Raw minerals
3 Gershwin's "The — Love"
4 Ostrich feathers
5 Better than average
6 Upper limit
7 Item on stage
8 Deli meat
9 It can be boring
10 Molecule part
11 Burns and Olin
19 Cry of dismay
21 Learning ctr.
24 Fix the soundtrack
25 "Exodus" hero
26 With resentment
28 Squealer
29 Turned to bone
30 Follower (Suff.)
31 As well
36 Jigsaw puzzle parts
37 Moreover
38 Egyptian deity
41 Accomplish
42 Peevish fit
43 El —, Texas
44 Bloodline sharers
46 Dog biscuit shape
47 Moth variety
48 Thames town
51 Corp. boss

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	E	A	N	■	S	T	U	■	S	S	T	S
A	R	N	O	■	E	R	G	■	A	K	I	N
C	O	N	T	R	A	I	L	■	L	I	R	A
E	S	S	A	Y	■	■	I	N	S	T	E	P
■	■	■	R	E	A	M	■	O	A	R	■	■
A	C	I	I	Y	■	B	A	U	M	■	A	I	F
V	I	A	■	D	E	N	S	E	■	I	C	K
I	A	N	■	E	L	I	S	■	C	L	D	E
■	■	D	A	M	■	C	R	U	Z	■	■	■
C	A	H	H	I	E	■	■	-	A	N	G	S
H	E	A	R	■	M	O	N	O	R	A	I	L
A	R	I	A	■	U	R	I	■	K	I	L	O
P	O	L	Y	■	S	E	X	■	S	L	A	P

Yesterday's answer 9-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lola Kirke, 28; Anna Camp, 36; Tamara Taylor, 48; Meat Loaf, 71.

Happy Birthday: Investments, health issues and contracts should be looked over carefully. You may need to make some adjustments this year in order to stabilize your situation. A gift, inheritance or unexpected gain is apparent. However, how you handle money matters can lead to loss as well. This is a year of easy come and easy go. Think matters through. Your numbers are 3, 9, 17, 24, 33, 37, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Offer to help someone you feel has something to offer in return. A give-and-take situation will bring you closer to someone you admire. A change of plans will be the result of an emotional encounter. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Learn as you go. Don't give in to someone trying to lure you into an argument. Stand behind your beliefs and live up to your promises. What you do will make a difference to the way others treat you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep information someone trusts you with a secret. A short trip will bring you to the realization that you have the wherewithal to accomplish your goals. Network and study, and you'll come across an opportunity that tempts you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Enjoy spending time with people you love. Socializing and trying new things will lead to interesting encounters that will have a lasting impression on you. A friend, lover or children will impact your life and the choices you make moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't fall into a trap. If someone is too complimentary, he or she probably has a hidden agenda. Be wary of anyone who wants you to make a commitment to something you know little about. Moderation will be necessary. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Learn all you can and get involved in events, meetings or conferences that will help you decipher what your options are. A positive change is within reach, and a move or trip will be eye-opening. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't be fooled by a risky venture. You are better off avoiding a joint venture and sticking to what you can afford when it comes to your living expenses and overhead. Work hard, save and don't feel obligated to pay for others. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look for different ways to improve your life. A change at home or to your daily routine will broaden your outlook. Express your feelings to someone you love, and you'll find a way to spend more time together. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get your responsibilities out of the way. The more intent you are to finish what you start, the easier it will be to relax and enjoy your downtime when the work is complete. An emotional incident should be put to rest. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Not everyone will be in favor of the changes you want to make. Give others the option to do as they please as long as they don't disrupt your plans. Trust in your ability, and you'll be happy with the results you achieve. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Uncertainty will put you in a precarious position. Don't give in to temptation, make personal changes or get involved in something that isn't right for you. Say no, and head in a direction that will bring you the highest return. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* The past will provide you with answers. Check in with someone you used to be close to and find out what you've missed. A relationship will take a turn that will help you fulfill one of your dreams. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, active and original. You are innovative and passionate.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2			6			7	
		3	2			6		
	5						1	
				7			8	
8				3				5
	9			1				
	8						5	
		2			3	7		
	4			8			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	7	3	6	1	8	4	5	9
9	8	1	5	2	4	3	6	7
5	4	6	3	7	9	8	2	1
6	2	8	9	5	3	1	7	4
7	3	5	8	4	1	6	9	2
4	1	9	7	6	2	5	8	3
1	9	4	2	8	6	7	3	5
8	5	2	4	3	7	9	1	6
3	6	7	1	9	5	2	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JELLY SHOES ARE BACK — Solution: 6 letters

T	A	P	P	L	A	T	F	O	R	M	S	G	W	S
H	N	E	V	A	E	W	B	E	A	C	H	N	E	P
G	K	E	P	A	H	S	M	B	E	A	D	I	D	O
I	L	P	C	P	U	M	P	S	W	G	T	R	G	L
R	E	T	L	U	U	F	S	H	O	E	S	P	E	F
B	P	O	H	S	L	I	D	E	N	D	I	S	P	P
P	U	E	K	A	C	S	V	I	N	T	A	G	E	I
F	A	C	T	S	L	I	N	G	B	A	C	K	R	L
A	O	S	K	P	T	U	T	A	H	C	R	A	S	F
S	T	O	T	L	R	R	F	S	R	O	B	T	T	L
T	A	L	U	E	E	I	A	Y	A	T	O	I	R	O
E	I	E	T	T	L	E	N	P	A	L	N	G	I	W
N	L	R	S	O	F	T	H	T	S	L	P	H	N	E
B	O	L	D	G	L	I	T	T	E	R	P	T	G	R
T	R	E	N	D	P	A	T	T	E	R	N	S	S	S

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Ankle, Arch, Beach, Bead, Bold, Bright, Buckle, Caged, Fasten, Flats, Flip-flops, Flowers, Glitter, Heel, Nineties, Outfit, Pastel, Pattern, Peep Toe, Plastic, Platform, Playful, Print, Pumps, Retro, Shape, Shoes, Shop, Slide, Sling Back, Slots, Socks, Soft, Sole, Spring, Strap, Strings, Summer, Tailor, T-Bar, Tights, Translucent, Trend, Vintage, Wear, Weave, Wedge

Yesterday's Answer: Mi Criss

The NEW **Volume 54** can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- JOAQUIN B. CAMACHO AND RAMONA S. CAMACHO Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0016

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 27, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot. No. 010 k 2016, situated in DanDan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 812 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 010 K 01, dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 87-2909, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 26, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 19th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Yinhua Clark Petitioner -vs- Song Feng Lin Respondent : FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0316 : **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1474 Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 05-0113 D

NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 26, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 19th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$30**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$45**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in engineering from a U.S. college or university or foreign equivalent, at least 2 years of geotechnical and/or relevant engineering experience, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

SALARY: Determined based on qualifications

ASSISTANT ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Assist engineering technicians in performing field and laboratory testing, and soil investigations. Prepare draft reports based on project observations and inspections. Input field and laboratory data. Communicate with clients, project managers, and others regarding projects. Other duties as assigned by supervisor. Project-specific travel required.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED, at least 1 year of relevant experience and/or training, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications (plus OT)

Applications are available at **www.marianasgeotech.com**, and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **October 8, 2018**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special board meeting on Friday, **September 28, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
- D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

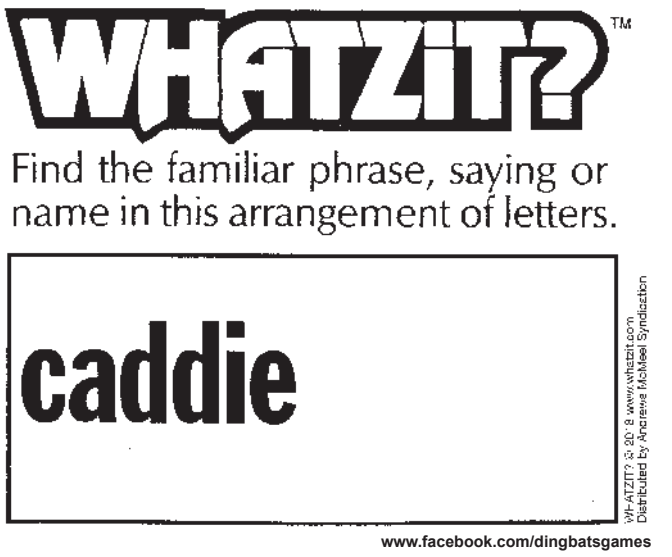
III. New Business
1. Election of Officers
2. Review of Contracts

IV. Executive Session***

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.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Tiger ready to put bad rap in Ryder Cup to rest

AP

Tiger Woods of the US plays from a bunker on the 3rd hole during a practice session at Le Golf National in Guyancourt, outside Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018. The 42nd Ryder Cup will be held in France from Sept. 28-30, 2018 at Le Golf National.

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France—Six years have passed yet the memory still irks Tiger Woods.

In 2012, the last time Woods played in the Ryder Cup, the Americans squandered the largest lead ever held by a team playing on home soil, a 10-6 advantage on the last day that quickly dissolved into a devastating defeat at Medinah Country Club north of Chicago.

Woods was playing in the final singles match and was standing in the 18th fairway when Martin Kaymer's putt clinched Europe's custody of the Cup.

"It was tough watching them celebrate when I thought we should have won that one," Woods said. "It's a tough situation. It's tough as a team, it's tough for our captain, it's tough for everyone involved not to have won the Cup because that's the ultimate goal."

Woods has had a lot of tough times listening to celebrations in the Ryder Cup. He's been on only one winning team. That was in 1999, when the Americans stormed back from a 10-6 deficit. He's been on the losing side in 1997, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2012.

"Looking back on my entire Ryder Cup career, that's not something that I have really enjoyed or liked seeing," Woods said. "My overall Ryder Cup record, not having won as a player since 1999, is something that hopefully we can change. We haven't won as a U.S. squad here in 25 years on foreign soil, so hopefully that will change this week, as well."

He's in form to help the U.S. do just that. Woods couldn't feel any better than he does ahead of the 42nd playing of the Ryder Cup beginning Friday at Le Golf National southwest of Paris. He's coming off one of his most cherished victories—his 80th PGA Tour title and first since 2013 coming in last week's Tour Championship—a remarkable achievement following spinal fusion surgery 18 months ago.

His game is dialed in, with five top-6 finishes in his last eight starts, a stretch that has moved him to No. 13 in the world rankings.

And he's once again playing in the biennial match play battle between the U.S. and Europe, instead of being a vice-captain as he was in 2016, or recovering from injury, as he was in 2008 after reconstructive knee surgery.

"I missed playing in it, missed competing in it," said Woods, one of four captain's picks. "I missed that rush of going out there and trying to get a point for my team. I've been a part of these teams now for the better part of 20 years, and to have earned the confidence in my teammates and my captain to have been selected is something that gives me a lot of excitement."

But over the years, Woods' commitment to the Ryder Cup has come into question, with critics pointing to his 13-17-3 overall record (4-1-2 in singles) as proof of his lack of passion for the event.

"Tiger gets a bad rap when it comes to the Ryder Cup. Well, that's a bunch of crap," Butch Harmon, who once coached Woods, said on Hank Haney's SiriusXM PGA Tour radio show. "Tiger Woods wants to win. He's always been a team player. The guy that got paired with Tiger in the old days had a lot of pressure on them because they were used to Tiger beating their brains out every week in tournaments. And they tried too hard.

"These young kids on the team now, they idolize Tiger Woods. They love playing with Tiger Woods."

For the record, Woods is 9-16-1 playing with partners. He has been paired with 12 players and holds a winning record with only two of them—Davis Love III and Chris Riley. Woods didn't win a match with six of the players, Mickelson, David Duval and Paul Azinger among them.

This week he's likely to add to that partner list seeing as he's played with just one current teammate—Mickelson. And the rest of the 10 players wouldn't mind going to the first tee with Woods.

Then again, he might be paired with Mickelson. The two were grouped with Bryson DeChambeau and Patrick Reed when practice rounds began Tuesday, fueling speculation that Woods and Mickelson could play together again. The only time they were paired was the ill-fated partnership in 2004 at Oakland Hills when they lost both matches on the first day.

Lakers loving LeBron's leadership in 1st practice together

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Although the Lakers' first official practice of the LeBron James era was focused on defense and learning new terminology, they ended it with a good old-fashioned 3-point shooting contest.

The Lakers' new superstar was just another teammate during the spirited back-and-forth competition Tuesday. When James wasn't draining his own 3s, he marveled along with everybody else at the surprising perimeter prowess shown by JaVale McGee, the 7-foot veteran with exactly one 3-pointer during a game in his 10-year NBA career.

The Lakers have many weeks of work ahead to become a cohesive team assembled around James, but he can already sense they're heading down the right path. They're planning to have plenty of fun along the way, too.

"I'm not a very patient guy, but I understand that I have to be patient right now," James said. "I've got to be patient with myself, too, because this is a new start for me. It's my first year in a new system. I know how to play the game of basketball, but this is all new to me, too. So I have to be patient with myself, not only with my teammates."

James was both upbeat and businesslike after his first workout under coach Luke Walton, who entered the NBA in the same draft class as James in 2003. The Lakers will hold double practices and a scrimmage on the first two days of camp leading toward their preseason debut in San Diego on Sunday night.

James intends to enjoy the process in his new city.

"We're here for one reason and one reason only, and that's to someday hoist the trophy," James said. "Obviously that's the end of the road, but you have to have those types of championship habits every day, not only on the floor, but off the floor as well. ... Everyone is excited to get back to work. That's a good thing. No one is coming in today and wishing it was still summer. It's the best time of the year. Basketball season is back up, baseball season is on its way to the playoffs, and the NFL is in Week 4. So what could you ask for as a sports fan?"

James naturally becomes the center of attention on any team, and he quickly assumed a leadership role for the Lakers. He's also eager to see his veteran teammates assert themselves to help the Lakers' young returning core, whether it's Rajon Rondo instructing his fellow guards on assignments, or Lance Stephenson vocally calling out defensive instructions in half-court work.

"He's LeBron. He's one name," Rondo said. "It speaks for itself. He's been a leader and a mentor in this league for a long time, on and off the court. He has a blueprint off the court as well. So he embraces his role. He embraces all the pressure that he's ever dealt with in his career, and he's always risen above the occasion."

Heat, Spoelstra look at camp as extension of last season

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP)—Part of Miami coach Erik Spoelstra's annual mandate to players, whether a 16-year veteran like Dwyane Wade or a second-year guy like Bam Adebayo, is to evolve.

Spoelstra expects the same from himself.

The Heat opened training camp on Tuesday with players who accounted for 98 percent of their scoring, 98 percent of their assists and 97 percent of their rebounding from last season. And keeping the same team means that those players, by now, have heard just about every speech and seen just about every trick in the Heat book.

Hence, the challenge for Spoelstra this season: Keeping the message and the approach fresh.

"I look back on it now and I don't even know how I prepared for my first training camp," Spoelstra said after the first practice of the season at Florida Atlantic University. "With this group, this probably felt more like a practice and an extension of last year's playoff prep because we had so many familiar faces. So that was nice."

Wade was back in Heat camp for the first time since 2015, the 16-year veteran who was with Chicago for camp two years ago and Cleveland last year rising at 5 a.m. and partaking in a yoga session before reporting to the last first practice of his career. Every Heat player besides James Johnson and Dion Waiters, both rehabbing, participated in full-contact portions of the workout. And there was even some live 5-on-5 scrimmaging, an intense tone getting set from the outset.

"Great first day," Wade said.

So the roster didn't really change from the end of last season—at least, not yet, with the Heat still one of the teams involved in pursuing Minnesota's Jimmy Butler on the trade market. And some part of the Heat DNA aren't going to change on Spoelstra's watch either, with the first practice of the year running over two hours as a precursor to two-a-days coming on Wednesday and Thursday.

Astros top AL West; Rockies take wild card spot

TORONTO (AP)— The Houston Astros clinched another AL West title and reached 100 wins for the second straight season, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 Tuesday night behind Alex Bregman's two-run homer.

Houston improved to 100-57 and was assured of first place hours later when second-place Oakland (95-63) lost at Seattle. The Astros will open the Division Series at home against Cleveland on Oct. 5.

The Astros need three wins in their final five games to break the franchise record for victories in a season, set in 1998.

Houston is 18-4 in September and 54-22 on the road, both best in the major leagues.

Roberto Osuna needed just six pitches in the ninth for his 20th save in 21 chances. Earlier Tuesday, assault charges against Osuna were dropped because the complainant, who lives in Mexico, made clear she would not travel to Toronto to testify.

Josh James (2-0) allowed one run and four hits in five innings in his third big league start.

Bregman went 2 for 5 and extended his club-record streak of reaching base safely on the road to 53 games.

AP

Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick (6) is safe at third on a triple as Toronto Blue Jays' Yangervis Solarte (26) catches the late throw during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, in Toronto.

Rockies 10, Phillies 3

In Denver, David Dahl homered for a second straight night, a three-run shot in the third, and the Colorado Rockies vaulted into the final NL wild-card spot by beating the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Rockies' fifth straight win moved them a half-game in front of St. Louis for the second wild-card after the Cardinals lost 12-4 to Milwaukee. Colorado trailed the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers by 1½ games entering the night and still has a chance to win its first division title. The Rockies have five games remaining.

Mariners 10, Athletics 8, 11 innings

In Seattle, pinch-hitter Chris Herrmann's two-run homer in the 11th inning gave Seattle a win over Oakland and clinched the AL West for Houston, leaving the Athletics with a wild-card matchup against the New York Yankees.

Seattle overcame an 8-5 eighth-inning deficit and dropped the A's 2½ games behind the Yankees for home-field advantage in the Oct. 3 winner-take-all matchup. Oakland had been 68-0 when leading after seven innings.

Denard Span hit a two-run double off Fernando Rodney in the eighth.

Brewers 12, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Christian Yelich homered and drove in six runs, and surging Milwaukee hurt St. Louis' playoff chances.

Ryan Braun went deep twice and Jesus Aguilar also connected as Milwaukee won for the fifth time in six games and moved within one-half game of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs. Manny Pina had two hits and drove in a run, and pitcher Gio Gonzalez contributed an RBI single for just his fourth hit of the season.

The Cardinals (87-71) fell one-half game behind the Colorado Rockies (87-70), who beat Philadelphia 10-3, for the second NL wild card. Milwaukee (91-67) leads Colorado by 3½ games for the top wild card.

Pirates 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, slugger Kris Bryant exited with a bruised left wrist, Mike Montgomery got hit hard over four-plus innings and the Chicago Cubs stumbled again in their playoff run by losing to Pittsburgh.

The Cubs missed a chance to clinch a franchise-record fourth straight trip to the postseason for the second time in as many nights. And their lead in the NL Central over Milwaukee shrunk to a half game, with the Brewers beating St. Louis 12-4.

Chicago needed a win plus a loss by Colorado to Philadelphia to secure a playoff spot and extend a run that includes a drought-ending World Series championship in 2016. But the Cubs lost for the fourth time in sixth games while the Rockies won 10-3.

Yankees 9, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, struggling Gary Sanchez drove in four runs for the first time since early April, Luis Severino won his 19th game and New York beat Tampa Bay to keep up its push for home-field advantage in the AL wild-card game.

Sanchez had been 10 for 66 (.152) since returning Sept. 1 from a groin strain and 1 for his last 28, dropping his average to .180. He hit a three-run homer off Jalen Beeks in a seven-run third inning, his first long ball since Sept. 10, and added an RBI single in the fifth.

Indians 5, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Trevor Bauer took a step toward returning to Cleveland's rotation for the postseason by tossing four effective innings, but Chicago overcame a two-run, ninth-inning deficit and beat Cleveland.

Carlos Carrasco (16-10) followed Bauer with his second relief appearance this season. Carrasco tossed one-hit, shutout ball through four innings and entered the ninth with a 4-2 lead before the White Sox scored three times and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Braves 7, Mets 3

In New York, Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning, Ozzie Albies homered in the eighth and NL East champion Atlanta rallied past New York for its sixth straight victory.

Atlanta shortstop Dansby Swanson exited early with a sore left hand, and the Braves were held scoreless by Noah Syndergaard for six innings. But they jumped all over the Mets' bullpen for seven runs in the next two innings to match their longest winning streak of the season.

Tigers 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Harold Castro's first career hit started an eighth-inning rally that led Detroit past Minnesota.

Joe Mauer set the Twins' record for reaching base. He singled in the first inning, reaching base for the 3,073 time in his career and surpassing Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew.

Victor Alcantara (1-0) earned the win with a scoreless inning in relief of starter Spencer Turnbul.

Royals 4, Reds 3

In Cincinatti, Hunter Dozier led off the ninth inning with a tie-breaking home run, lifting Kansas City over Cincinnati.

Dozier's 11th homer of the season, off Raisel Iglesias (2-5), left Kansas City needing two wins in its last five games to avoid tying the franchise record of 106 losses in a season, set in 2005.

Diamondbacks 4, Ddogers 3

In Phoenix, Eduardo Escobar homered off Kenta Maeda leading off the ninth inning, and the Arizona Diamondbacks tightened the NL West race.

Los Angeles (88-70) had won 10 of its previous 12 games to surge into the NL West lead, but Colorado (87-70) pulled within a half-game of the NL champions by beating Philadelphia 10-3.

Chris Taylor hit a tying double off Brad Boxberger (3-7) in the top of the ninth. Escobar sent a full-count fastball from Maeda (8-10) into the right-field seats.

Angels 4, Rangers 1

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani, Justin Upton and Kaleb Cowart drove in runs and the Los Angeles Angels rallied with four runs in the sixth inning to beat Texas.

Noe Ramirez (7-5) earned the victory in relief.

The Rangers took a 1-0 lead in the third when Joey Gallo hit his 40th homer of the season to deep center.

Giants 5, Padres 4, 12 innings

In San Francisco, pitcher Madison Bumgarner had the first game-ending hit of his career, a pinch-hit single in the 12th inning that drove in Gorkys Hernandez, and lifted San Francisco.

Hunter Pence homered and scored three times in what was likely one of his final games with San Francisco. Gregor Blanco had a two-run single and Evan Longoria added an RBI double.

The Giants recorded their 10th walk-off win of the season, and won for just the fifth time in 22 games.

Scherzer joins elite 300-strikeout club

WASHINGTON—The Nationals ace Max Scherzer bolstered his case for the National League Cy Young Award, striking out 10 batters Tuesday night to give him an even 300 on the season.

With the fans at Nationals Park cheering him on, Scherzer finished off Miami Marlins left fielder Austin Dean with a 3-2 slider in the top of the seventh inning for the milestone whiff, making him just the sixth pitcher since 1990 to hit the 300 mark.

He joins some pretty good company in the 300-K club: Randy Johnson (six times), Curt Schilling (three), Pedro Martinez (2), Clayton Kershaw and, last season, Chris Sale.

"It was something I dreamed of, reaching this mark," Scherzer said, "because I know how hard it is to consistently go out there and strike guys out."

Scherzer is bidding to win his third consecutive NL Cy Young Award, but will face challenges from Jacob deGrom of the New York Mets and Aaron Nola of the Philadelphia Phillies, among others.

The Nationals right-hander has put up impressive stats once again. He was removed after completing the seventh inning and allowing only one run on five hits, in addition to the 10 strikeouts.

As the Nationals went on defeat the Marlins, Scherzer picked up his league-leading 18th win and lowered his season ERA to 2.53.

"I definitely wanted to do it here at home," Scherzer said of reaching the 300-K mark. "The fans—unbelievable support."

Nola has 16 wins, 216 K's, a slightly lower 2.45 ERA and the advantage in Baseball-Reference.com's Wins Above Replacement (9.8).

DeGrom sports an amazing 1.77 ERA—the lowest since Kershaw in 2014—and a 9.1 bWAR, but because of the Mets' lack of run support only has nine wins.

Rams unanimous top team in latest Pro32 poll

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Rams continue to be box office gold for the NFL.

The Rams are off to a 3-0 start after handling the Chargers, 35-23, in an all-LA matchup on Sunday.

They also are the unanimous top team in the latest AP Pro32 poll .

The Rams received all 12 first-place votes and 384 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

They open Week 4 by hosting the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night in a matchup of NFC powerhouses.

"Jared Goff is looking like a Pro Bowl quarterback under wunderkind coach Sean McVay, and the Rams are looking like a Super Bowl contender after a splendid early season run," said Newsday's Bob Glauber.

The unbeaten Kansas City Chiefs moved up two spots to No. 2. The Chiefs close out Week 4 with a prime-time matchup at Denver against the Broncos on Monday night.

"Patrick Mahomes has been a revelation, but the Chiefs get the second spot behind the Rams because of their porous defense, which is yielding more than 30 points and 474 yards per game," said Jenny Vrentas of The Monday Morning Quarterback.

The Philadelphia Eagles continued to bounce around the top 10 in the poll. The Eagles were No. 2 after the first week of the regular season. They fell to No. 7 after losing to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers but rose to No. 3 after edging the Indianapolis Colts, 20-16, in Carson Wentz's first game since December, when he tore two ligaments in his knee.

The Jacksonville Jaguars dropped two places to No. 4 after their field goal-filled 9-6 loss to AFC South rival Tennessee.

Led by Drew Brees, the New Orleans jumped 10 spots to No. 5 after topping the Atlanta Falcons, 43-37, in overtime.

"As Drew Brees closes in on the NFL record book, it appears New Orleans has recovered nicely from that Week 1 stunner vs. Tampa Bay," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida.

The Miami Dolphins, who are off to a surprising 3-0 start, also made a major move. The AFC East leaders moved up seven places to No. 6. The Dolphins face another big test this week when they travel to Foxborough to face the suddenly slumping Patriots, who have lost two in a row and fell five spots to No. 10.

AP

Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Mike Williams scores in front of Los Angeles Rams defensive back Lamarcus Joyner during the second half in an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018, in Los Angeles.

The Patriots have overcome slow starts before and still reached the Super Bowl, and they now have three consecutive home games to try to make up ground in the division.

Another team making a big climb was the Carolina Panthers, who jumped five spots to No. 7 after defeating Cincinnati, 31-21.

"Found a running game," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said of the Panthers, who finished with 230 rushing yards in the victory. Christian McCaffrey led the way with a career-high 184 yards.

The Vikings went in the opposite direction as they dropped five spots to No. 8 after getting routed at home by Buffalo, 27-6.

And the Baltimore Ravens regained their footing as they climbed seven spots to No. 9 after handling the Broncos, 27-14.

The Ravens have a key game in Week 4 as they head to Pittsburgh on Sunday night to face the Steelers in one of the NFL's fiercest rivalries.

Tokyo Olympics begin search for 80,000 unpaid volunteers

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo Olympic organizers began their search Wednesday for 80,000 unpaid volunteers to staff many of the venues when the Olympics and Paralympics open in just under two years.

The closing date for applications will be in December, although Tokyo 2020 organizers say they have not set a specific date.

Olympics volunteers are unpaid and typically must provide their own lodging, but they are given uniforms and free meals on the days they work.

The volunteer program has been a staple of the Olympics. Many volunteers relish the behind-the-scenes work, and many return to do it several times. But the program also has detractors. At every Olympics, volunteers sign up, get the uniforms, and then don't show up for work—or complain about being unpaid even though agreeing to those terms.

The Rio de Janeiro Olympics two years ago had problems finding volunteers, particularly among the poor and working class who could not afford to work for free.

"Volunteers will be an essential part of the games' success in a variety of roles at competition venues and at the athletes' village," Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya said in a statement.

Earlier this month during a visit of International Olympic Committee inspectors, a Japanese reporter told IOC member John Coates that complaints about the Olympic volunteer system were surfacing, particularly in Japanese social media.

"They are hinting that it is similar to forced labor," the reporter said.

"Volunteers are volunteers," Coates replied. "And they don't have to apply if they don't want to."

A review of the volunteer system several years ago by the Associated Press indicated using unpaid volunteers saved the IOC and local organizers about $100 million—perhaps more.

The IOC generates almost $6 billion of revenue over a four-year Olympic cycle. The IOC says about 90 percent of the money goes back to national Olympic bodies, sports federations and local organizers.

"The economics of it necessitates having to have volunteers," Coates said. "They get trained, they get their uniforms. They are part of something very exciting."

Coates defended the model and said "I don't think there's a case for paying volunteers."

GCA

From Page 28

SIS dislodged GCA 2 from the No. 3 spot after winning over SCS in an extended game early this week. The Geckos notched a 25-14 triumph in the first set, but missed the outright victory when SCS got even in the second, 25-11. Then in the deciding third set, SIS pulled off a 15-12 win to move up to the rankings. The Geckos now have a 5-4 record and ended a three-game slide that started with their loss to Mt. Carmel last Sept. 13.

The Knights are also back on track following a three-set victory over Agape Christian School 2 last Tuesday at the Agape court in Middle Road. Mt. Carmel now holds a 5-4 record for a tie for fourth place with SIS and behind GCA 1 and Agape 1.

Agape 1 kept the No. 2 spot, as it improved to a 7-2 slate after defeating Seventh Day Adventist last Tuesday. SDA is still at the bottom half of the team standings (seventh place) with its 2-7 record, ahead of Agape 2, which has yet win a single match after nine games. SCS is ranked No. 6 with its 3-7 mark. SCS was scheduled to face Agape 1 in the lone match set for yesterday and results of the game were unavailable as off press time.

Today, three matches will take place in two courts. At the MCS Gymnasium, the Knights will host SDA in the 3:30pm game, while over at the GCA court, GCA 1 and 2 will duel Agape 2 and SIS in the 3:30pm and 4:30pm matches, respectively.

M-LEAGUE

From Page 28

sion B during the spring tournament. Matansa shut down Shirley's Football Club in the finals, 3-0, to earn the division title and a slot to Division A. Korean Football Association on Saipan completes the Division A cast, drawing a bye in the opening week and it won't be seeing action until next Sunday when it duels TanHoldings FC.

Matches in Division A will be played in two 45-minute halves with a 10-minute break. Format for the season is double round-robin with the team to top the rankings ending up with the league championship. A separate tournament—M-League Cup—will also be played at the end of the season.

Meanwhile, Division B games will kick off this weekend with a pair of matches at the training center.

In the first match at 4pm, Shirley's will be pitted against the CNMI Women's National Team, while in the second game at 6pm, it will be Sun Palace versus Pacific Islands Club. Matches in Division B will be played in two 40-minute halves and the champion at the end of the season will be promoted to Division A.

CNMI

From Page 28

first live stream. Having witnessed the passion for football (soccer) on the island, we believe there is huge potential and we look forward to building a digital product together with NMIFA," he added.

NMIFA Executive Committee and MP United Football Club's Norman Del Rosario, Southern United FC's Megan Aglipay, Kanoa FC coach Raymond Zapanta, and NMIFA staff Mikky Vargas attended the seminar. NMIFA had its first live streamed game last Sept. 14, featuring the boys U15 division match between Kanoa FC and TanHoldings FC. The group also did a test run on the Kanoa-MP United game in the U18 division last Sept. 15. IT&E was the network provider during the games' live streaming.

"It was a very insightful seminar. The representatives made it easy for us to understand how the live-streaming platform works and how it can help our growing soccer community in terms of exposure and increasing people's interest and knowledge in the sport. This platform is focused on soccer, so it has this cool feature that allows viewers to see specific key moments in the game (foul, corner kick, free kick, etc), which are marked for convenient viewing. These highlights can also be very helpful to those who aren't well versed in the sport," Aglipay said.

Del Rosario added that the live streaming will be very beneficial to CNMI players who are hoping to play in the collegiate ranks and earn an athletic scholarship.

"This is also very important tool for our aspiring student-athletes who want to continue playing in college. As we all know, our location is very far from the mainland and for our players to get recruited, we will need a lot of videos of the matches and with mycujoo, those videos will help our aspiring players to go beyond the island football," Del Rosario said.

"In my own experience with my son, we have reach out to different people and dig in to old matches in EAFF just to have a file to begin with in making highlights for the coaches to see. Now, coaches and scouts will have new videos to watch every week and will have better evaluation of the recruits," the MP United official added.

NMIFA will try to live stream majority of the matches but as a starter, it will only live stream games at the training center's main pitch.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	106	51	.675	—
y-New York	97	60	.618	9
Tampa Bay	87	70	.554	19
Toronto	71	87	.449	35½
Baltimore	45	111	.288	60½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	88	69	.561	—
Minnesota	72	84	.462	15½
Detroit	64	93	.408	24
Chicago	62	95	.395	26
Kansas City	55	102	.350	33

West Division

x-Houston	100	57	.637	—
y-Oakland	95	63	.601	5½
Seattle	86	71	.548	14
Los Angeles	77	81	.487	23½
Texas	66	91	.420	34

NATIONAL LEGAUE

East Division

x-Atlanta	89	68	.567	—
Washington	80	78	.506	9½
Philadelphia	78	79	.497	11
New York	73	84	.465	16
Miami	62	95	.395	27

Central Division

Chicago	91	66	.580	—
Milwaukee	91	67	.576	½
St. Louis	87	71	.551	4½
Pittsburgh	80	76	.513	10½
Cincinnati	66	92	.418	25½

West Division

Los Angeles	88	70	.557	—
Colorado	87	70	.554	½
Arizona	80	78	.506	8
San Francisco	73	85	.462	15
San Diego	63	95	.399	25

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Basketball League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

IT&E CNMI marketing manager Natashia Tomokane does the ceremonial ball toss to start the opening match between Armatech and Pacific Postal Plus in the IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Mixed Masters Basketball League 2018 last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 officials and members and league organizers and sponsors pose for a photo at the conclusion of the opening ceremony.

Imperial Pacific players pose for a photo after the squad won the Best in Uniform contest, tying Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan players and muse pose with their Best in Uniform award and are joined in the photo by representatives from league sponsor IT&E.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Julia Espino, center, is awarded the Best Muse trophy during the opening ceremony. Joining her in the photo are IT&E CNMI representatives and members and officers of Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179.

Armatech players and officials gather for a group photo before playing in the first game.

Cellular Pro players and their muse join the parade of teams.

Representatives of participating teams are called to the center court during the opening ceremony.

Tiger ready to put bad rap in Ryder Cup to rest

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Sports

Astros top AL West; Rockies take wild card spot

PAGE 25

CNMI soccer games shown online

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Missed a game or can't come to the pitch to watch a match? No problem.

You can still catch the action at the NMI Soccer Training Center, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Club has started live streaming games since early this month.

This latest development was made possible after NMIFA officials and staff members took a seminar on live streaming soccer games through the help of Shoko Tsuji and Nadia Wu—the partner success managers of Mycujoo Asia. Mycujoo, which was founded by Empower Sports AG in 2014, according to its website "is a streaming platform providing live and on-demand broadcast of football matches and highlights from around the world.

CNMI soccer supporters who can't watch the matches personally, especially those off-island, just need to check on NMIFA's Facebook page or see www.facebook.com/nmifootball and look for the games being live streamed. They can also check the Mycujoo and search for NMIFA to see videos/live streams related to the association. For those who could not tune in live, they can also check the video or just the highlights, which are displayed on the right hand side of the video, along with the statistics.

"The AFC Live Streaming Assessment Workshop was organized by NMIFA, Asian Football Confederation, and mycujoo in order to get NMIFA to join the mycujoo platform (along with the other 30 AFC member associations already on board) and teach their staff the live streaming operations," Tsuji said.

"It was a great pleasure to work together with NMIFA and support them with their

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3 0
53:04
Play
26:47
Highlights
Stats
42' MP United - Saved by Goalkeeper
44' Chance MP United - Goalpost / Crossbar
45' Foul Kanoa FC - Free Kick
46' Chance MP United - Off Target
54' Foul MP United - Free Kick
55' Goal MP United
58' Foul MP United - Free Kick
61' Chance Kanoa FC - Saved by Goalkeeper

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A screen shot of the live stream game between Kanoa Football Club and MP United FC in the boys U18 division of the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville is shown here.

GCA 1, SIS down opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy 1 and Saipan International School earned contrasting wins in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Tuesday to remain at the top half of the team standings.

The Geckos needed three sets to beat Saipan Community School at the SIS court in As Lito, while GCA 1 showed no love lost to sister squad GCA 2 after a victory via sweep at the Eagles turf in Navy Hill.

Though GCA 1 took only two sets to prevail against GCA 2, the latter still gave the former a tough fight, as seen in the match's final scores, 25-21, 25-21. With the victory, GCA 1 hiked its record to 9-0 and strengthened its hold to the top spot in the team standings. GCA 2, on the other hand, fell to a 5-5 mark and slid from third place to fifth.

See GCA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Saipan International School player receives a serve from Agape Christian School 1 during their first round meeting in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League at the Agape court in Middle Road.

M-League kicks off fall season tonight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spring finalist Paire Football Club and newcomer The Old B Bank will play in the opening game in the 2018 Fall M-League tonight at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

The kick-off match between the two teams entered in Division A of the CNMI's premier men's league will start at 6:30pm at the main pitch of the Koblerville facility.

Paire will have its first match of the season after falling short in its bid to win the spring championship following a 0-1 loss to MP United in the finals last June. The Old B Bank, though a new team, will have the holdovers from the Okadaya-sponsored squad that played in the league for the last two seasons.

Besides Paire and The Old B Bank, five more teams will be competing in Division A. MP United will have its season debut this Sunday as it takes on Kanoa Football Club in the 4pm match at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Over at the main pitch in Koblerville, TanHoldings will challenge Matansa in the 2pm game.

Matansa was promoted to Division A after ruling Divi-

See M-LEAGUE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire Football Club and MP United players collide as they battle for the ball during the title game in the Division A of the 2018 Spring M-League last June at the Hopwood Middle School Field. This fall season, the league will be playing majority of its games at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.